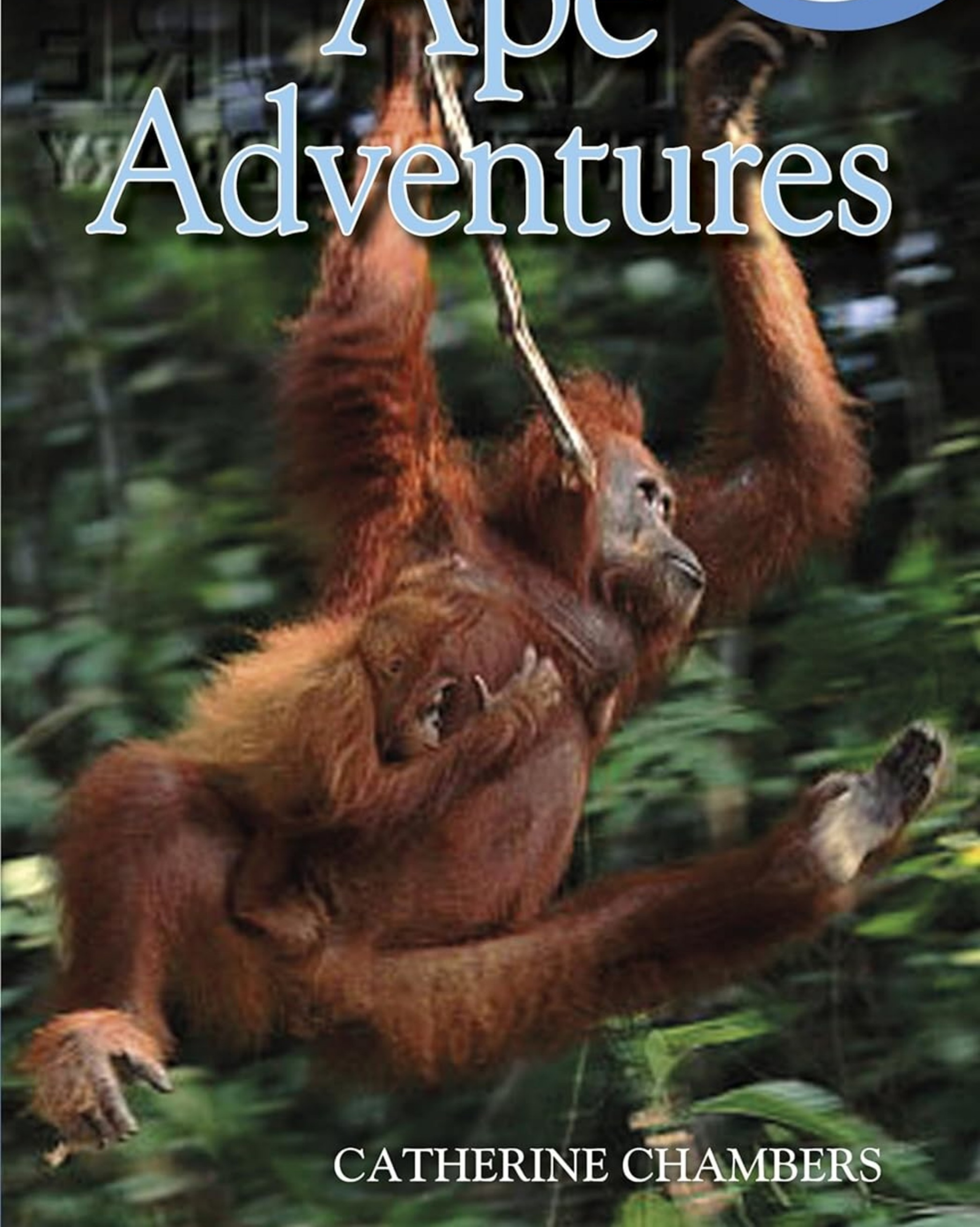




READERS



Ape Adventures



CATHERINE CHAMBERS



READERS

Level 3

Shark Attack!
Beastly Tales
Titanic
Invaders from Outer Space
Movie Magic
Time Traveller
Bermuda Triangle
Tiger Tales
Plants Bite Back!
Zeppelin: The Age of the Airship
Spies
Terror on the Amazon
Disasters at Sea
The Story of Anne Frank
Extreme Sports
Spiders' Secrets
The Big Dinosaur Dig
The Story of Chocolate
School Days Around the World
Welcome to China
My First Ballet Show
Ape Adventures

Greek Myths
Ant Antics
Star Wars: Star Pilot
Star Wars: I Want to Be a Jedi
Star Wars: The Story of Darth Vader
Star Wars: Yoda in Action
Star Wars: Forces of Darkness
Star Wars: Death Star Battles
Star Wars: Feel the Force!
Star Wars: The Battle for Naboo
Star Wars The Clone Wars: Forces of Darkness
Star Wars The Clone Wars: Yoda in Action!
Star Wars The Clone Wars: Jedi Heroes
Marvel Heroes: Amazing Powers
The X-Men School
The Invincible Iron Man: Friends and Enemies
Wolverine: Awesome Powers
Fantastic Four: The World's Greatest Superteam
Indiana Jones: Great Escapes

Level 4

Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters
Days of the Knights
Secrets of the Mummies
Pirates! Raiders of the High Seas
Horse Heroes
Micro Monsters
Going for Gold!
Extreme Machines
Flying Ace: The Story of Amelia Earhart
Robin Hood
Black Beauty
Free at Last! The Story of Martin Luther King, Jr.
Joan of Arc
Spooky Spinechillers
Welcome to The Globe! The Story of Shakespeare's Theatre
Space Station: Accident on Mir
Antarctic Adventure
Atlantis: The Lost City?
Dinosaur Detectives
Danger on the Mountain: Scaling the World's Highest Peaks
Crime Busters
The Story of Muhammad Ali
First Flight: The Story of the Wright Brothers
D-Day Landings: The Story of the Allied Invasion
Solo Sailing
Thomas Edison: The Great Inventor
JLA: Batman's Guide to Crime and Detection
JLA: Superman's Guide to the Universe
JLA: Aquaman's Guide to the Oceans
JLA: Wonder Woman's Book of Myths

JLA: Flash's Book of Speed
JLA: Green Lantern's Book of Inventions
The Story of the X-Men: How it all Began
Creating the X-Men: How Comic Books Come to Life
Spider-Man's Amazing Powers
The Story of Spider-Man
The Incredible Hulk's Book of Strength
The Story of the Incredible Hulk
Transformers: The Awakening
Transformers: The Quest
Transformers: The Unicron Battles
Transformers: The Uprising
Transformers: Megatron Returns
Transformers: Terrorcon Attack
Star Wars: Galactic Crisis!
Star Wars: Beware the Dark Side
Star Wars: Epic Battles
Star Wars: Ultimate Duels
Star Wars The Clone Wars: Jedi Adventures
Star Wars The Clone Wars: Planets in Peril
Marvel Heroes: Greatest Battles
Rise of the Iron Man
The Story of Wolverine
Fantastic Four: Evil Adversaries
Fantastic Four: The World's Greatest Superteam
Graphic Readers: The Price of Victory
Graphic Readers: The Terror Trail
Graphic Readers: Curse of the Crocodile God
Graphic Readers: Instruments of Death
Graphic Readers: The Spy-Catcher Gang
Graphic Readers: Wagon Train Adventure
Indiana Jones: The Search for Buried Treasure

A Note to Parents and Teachers

DK READERS is a compelling reading programme for children. The programme is designed in conjunction with leading literacy experts, including Cliff Moon M.Ed., who has spent many years as a teacher and teacher educator specializing in reading. Cliff Moon has written more than 160 books for children and teachers. He is series editor to Collins Big Cat.

Beautiful illustrations and superb full-colour photographs combine with engaging, easy-to-read stories to offer a fresh approach to each subject in the series. Each DK READER is guaranteed to capture a child's interest while developing his or her reading skills, general knowledge, and love of reading.

The five levels of DK READERS are aimed at different reading abilities, enabling you to choose the books that are exactly right for your child:

- Pre-level 1:** Learning to read
- Level 1:** Beginning to read
- Level 2:** Beginning to read alone
- Level 3:** Reading alone
- Level 4:** Proficient readers

The “normal” age at which a child begins to read can be anywhere from three to eight years old. Adult participation through the lower levels is very helpful for providing encouragement, discussing storylines and sounding out unfamiliar words.

No matter which level you select, you can be sure that you are helping your child learn to read, then read to learn!





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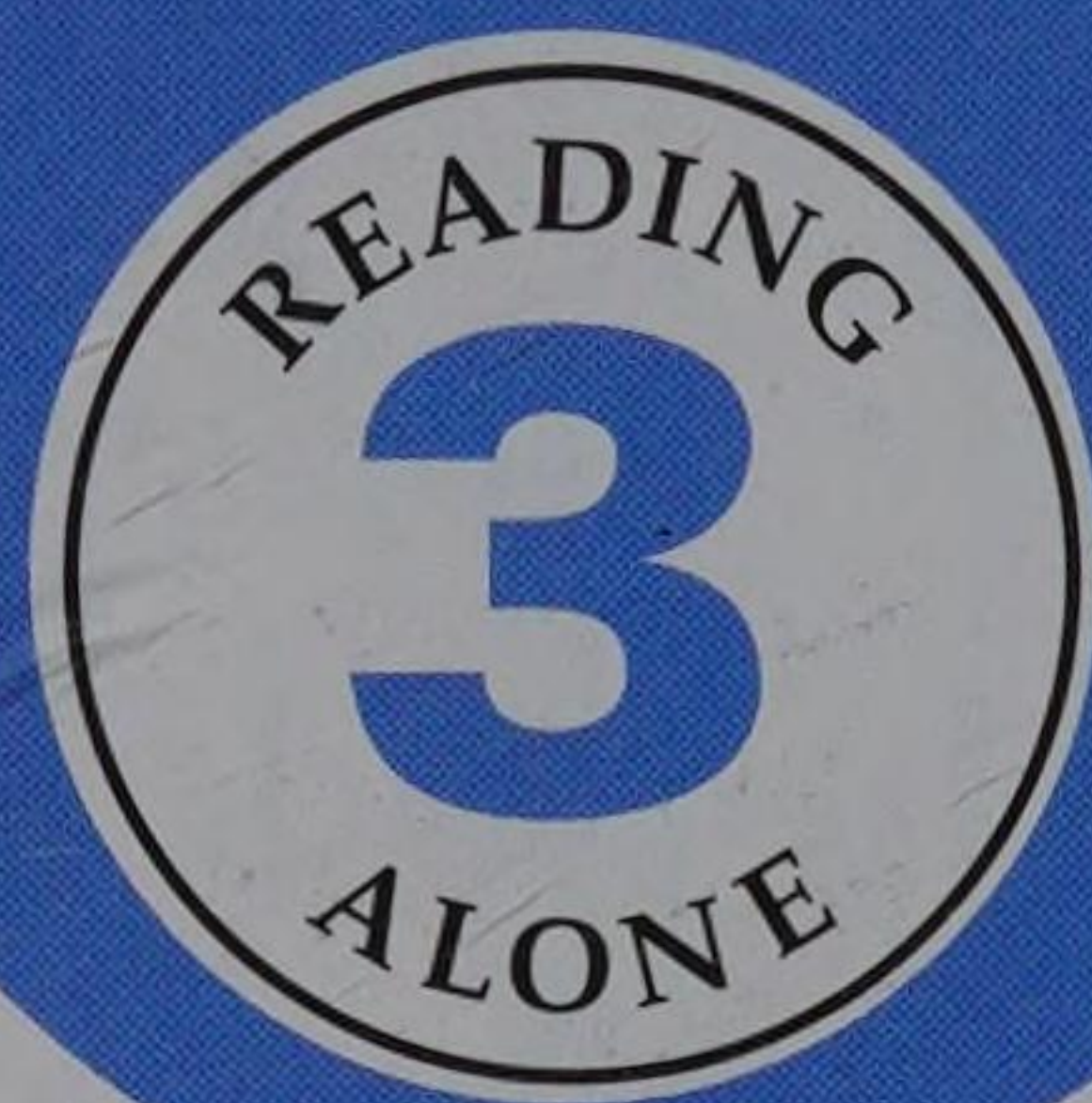
Contents

- 4 Family of apes
- 6 Getting to know you
- 14 A glimpse of hope
- 20 Smart apes
- 26 Apes in a safe place
- 32 Letting go
- 42 Ape surprise
- 48 Glossary



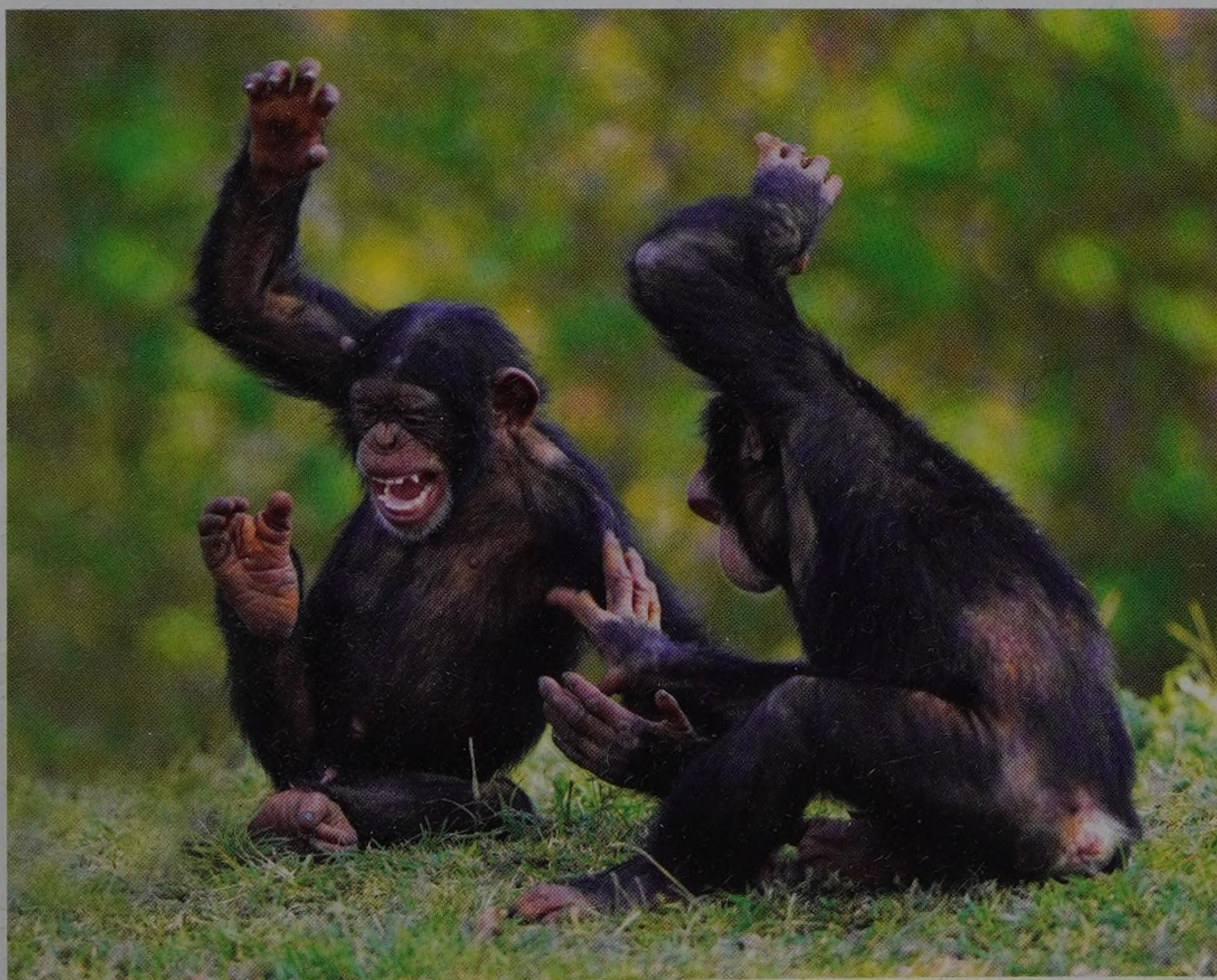


READERS



Ape Adventures

Written by Catherine Chambers



A Dorling Kindersley Book

Family of apes

Tourists gaze at apes in zoos and in the wild. Scientists study them in forests and laboratories. Viewers watch ape antics on television screens, but why are we so fascinated by them?

Perhaps it's because apes seem so much like us. They cuddle their young, build shelters and some even make tools. Apes can tell each other what they feel. In the following adventures, apes show what they think about us, too.

The stories take us to parts of Africa and Asia where apes live in hot tropical and subtropical forests. However, they also live in great danger from hunters and illegal traders, and their forests are being destroyed by farmers and loggers. The survival of apes lies in our hands.❖

*Lar
gibbon*



Small Apes

Lesser apes, also known as gibbons, spend their lives in trees. The largest kind of gibbon is the siamang.

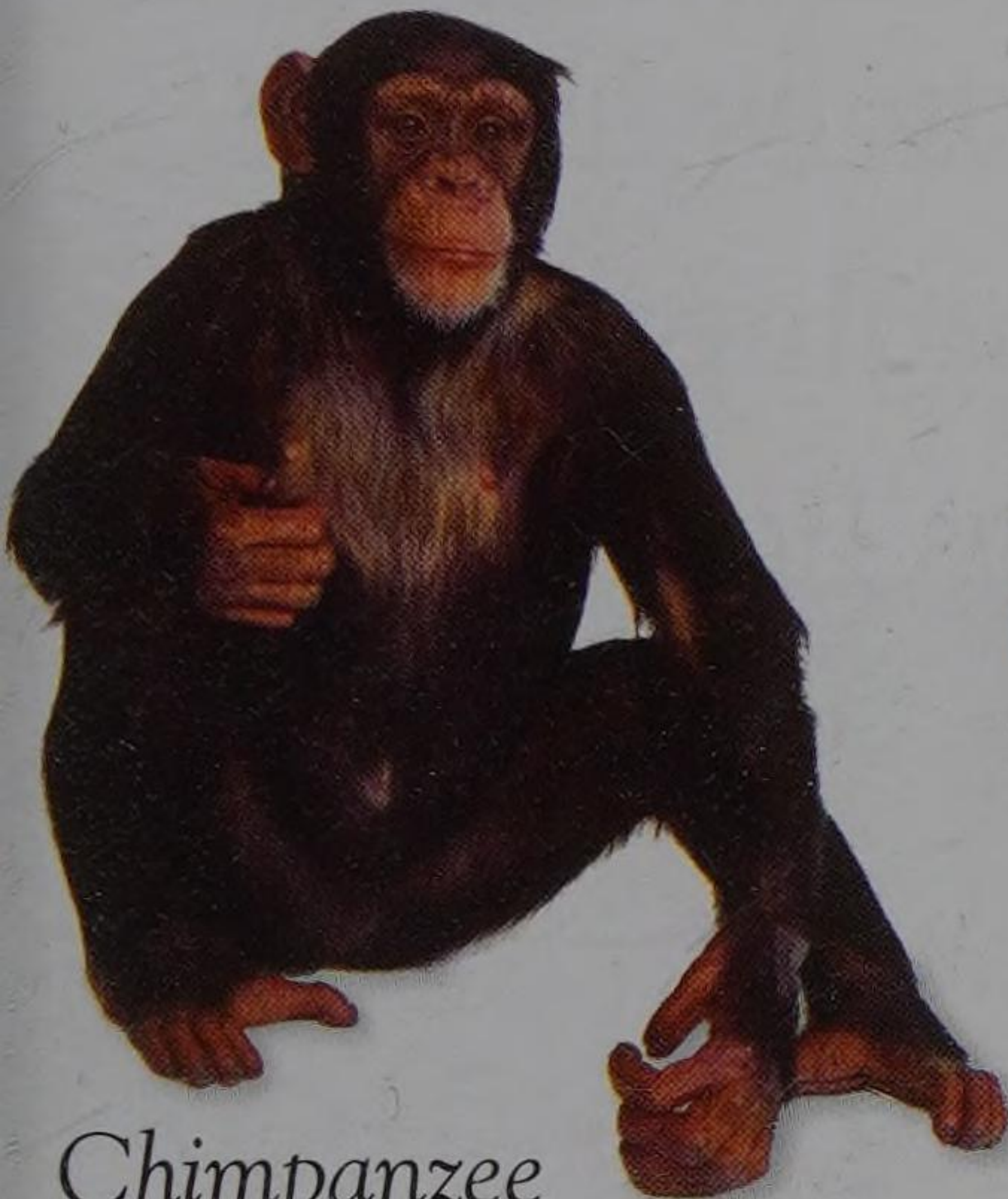
Siamang



Big Apes

The four great apes are the bonobo, chimpanzee, gorilla and orang-utan.

Chimpanzee



Bonobo



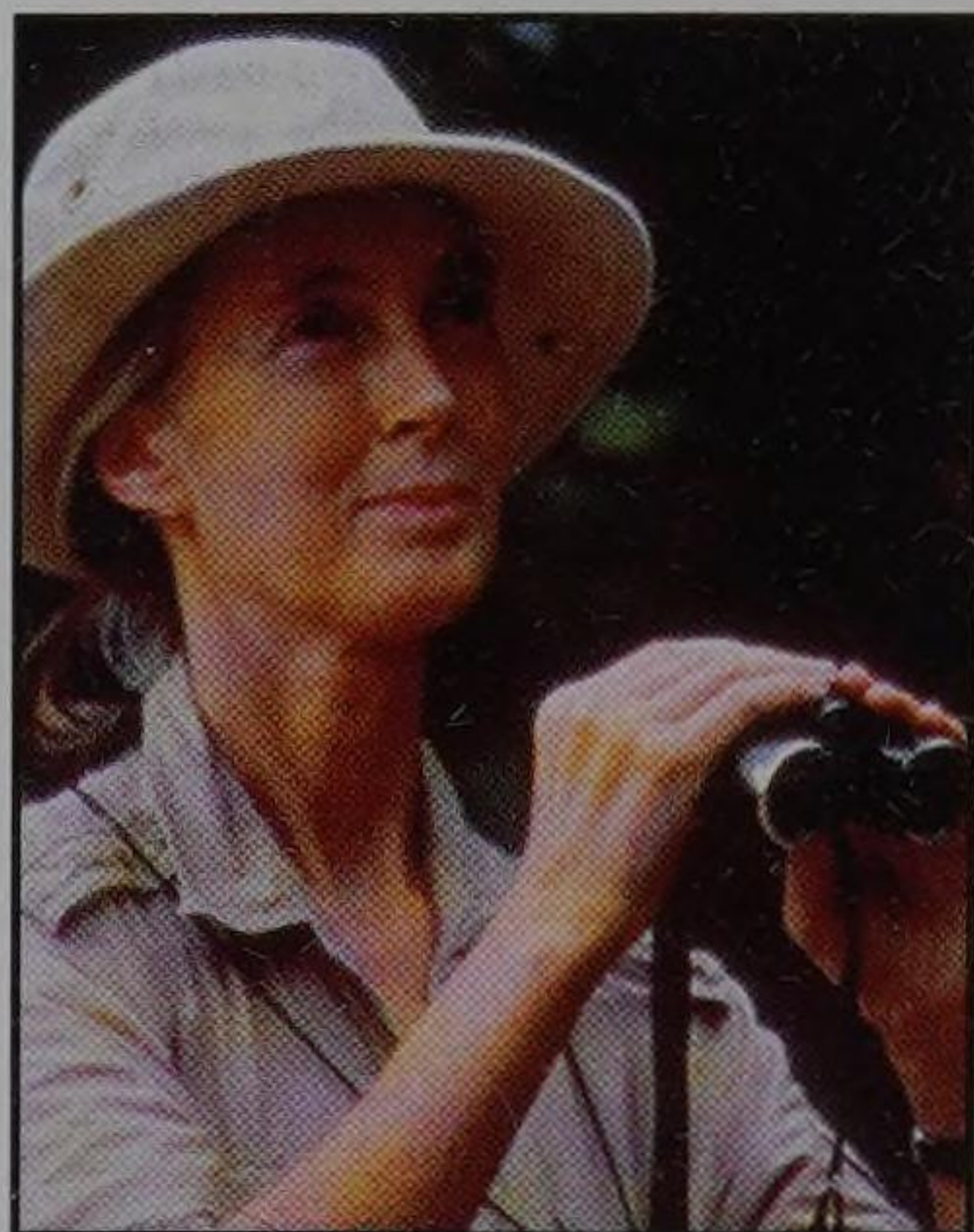
Orang-utan



Gorilla



Getting to know you



Who is Jane?

Jane Goodall first went to Africa in 1957. There, she worked with Louis Leakey, who studied animal and human behaviour. Jane studied many chimpanzees in the Gombe Stream Game Reserve, in Tanzania.

Jane sat quietly on a high peak in East Africa. The light was hazy in the heat. Thick forest and bushes lined the hollows and hills. Jane stared down at a clump of msulula trees.

“There, Rashidi! Can you see them?”

The park ranger could see a mother chimpanzee and her three children.

A balanced diet

Chimpanzees live in Africa's forests and grassy savannahs. In these areas, they find plenty of leaves and fruit to eat. They also eat small monkeys.



The mother and her young chimp were plucking handfuls of round, juicy fruits.

“See, there to the right?” Jane said.

“Her two teenage sons are learning to hunt that small monkey!”

“In a few years, they’ll be ready to find food on their own,” said Rashidi.



Older chimp mothers often accept younger mothers into their group. They then share childcare duties.

Jane moved quietly down the slope to get closer. Suddenly, she slipped and crashed through the scratchy bushes. The noise echoed all around the valley. The chimps screeched and scampered off and Jane sighed with frustration. The chimps would never let her get close to them.





Every night, chimps make new nests. They usually make them in trees by bending the branches and gathering leaves.

The air cooled suddenly. The great East African sky changed to a deeper blue, then to a blazing orange and then to pink. As the sun set, the chimpanzees made sleeping nests in the trees. It was time for Jane and Rashidi to pack up for the day.



Back at the camp, Jane sat down to write in her chimpanzee diary. Before she could write anything, an excited voice made her jump. It was Dominic, a member of her team.

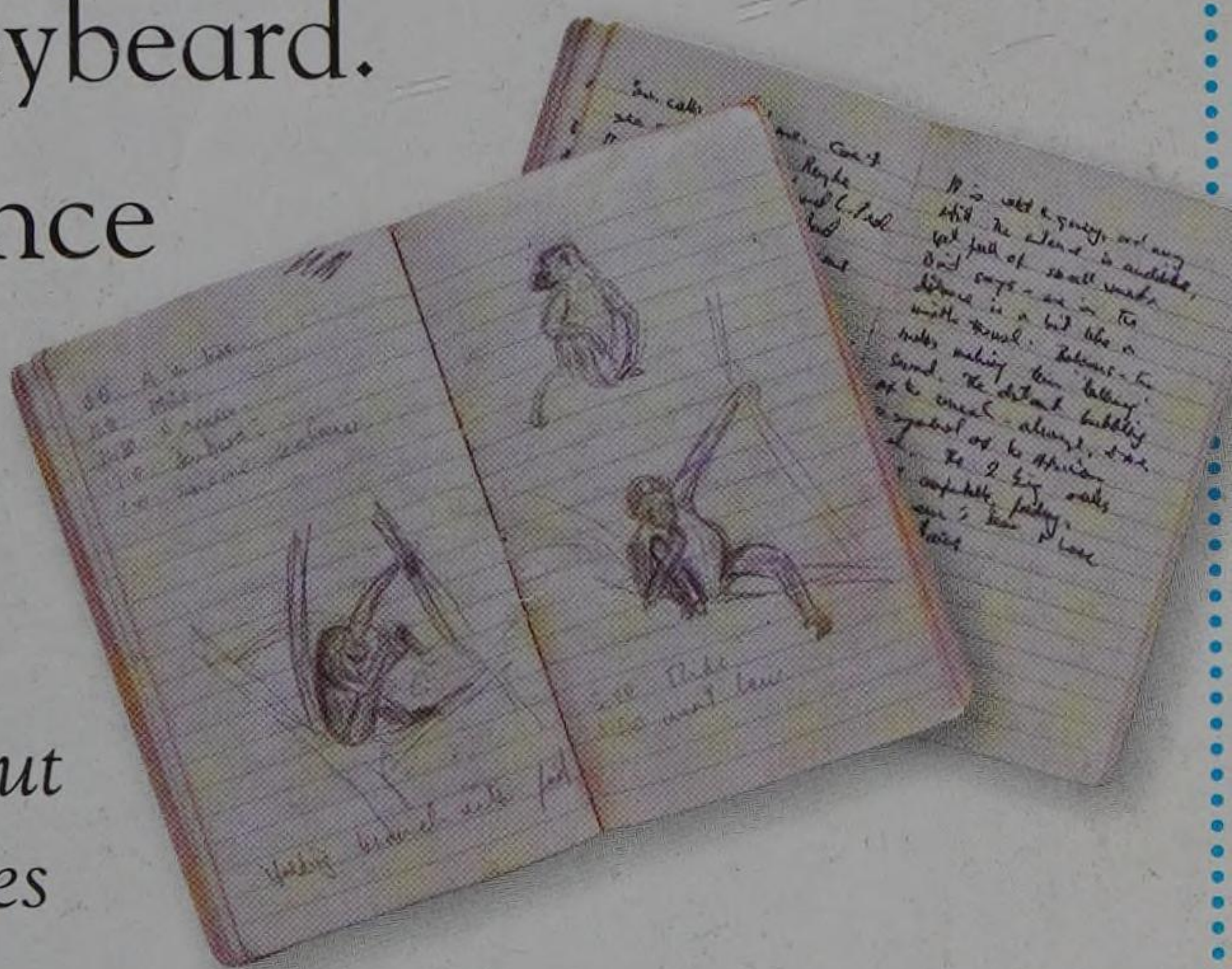
“Jane! You’ll never guess what I saw! A chimpanzee, here in the camp! He was eating palm nuts from our trees. Then he stole some bananas from the table.”

“What did he look like?” Jane asked.

“He was very large and had long white hairs around his chin,” replied Dominic.

“I know him!” cried Jane. “It’s the one I call David Greybeard. At last I have a chance to get close to a chimp.”

*Jane’s
diaries about
chimpanzees*





After that day, David Greybeard often visited the camp. He also allowed Jane to get near him in the forest. He even took bananas from her hand. Over many months, David's whole family began to trust her.

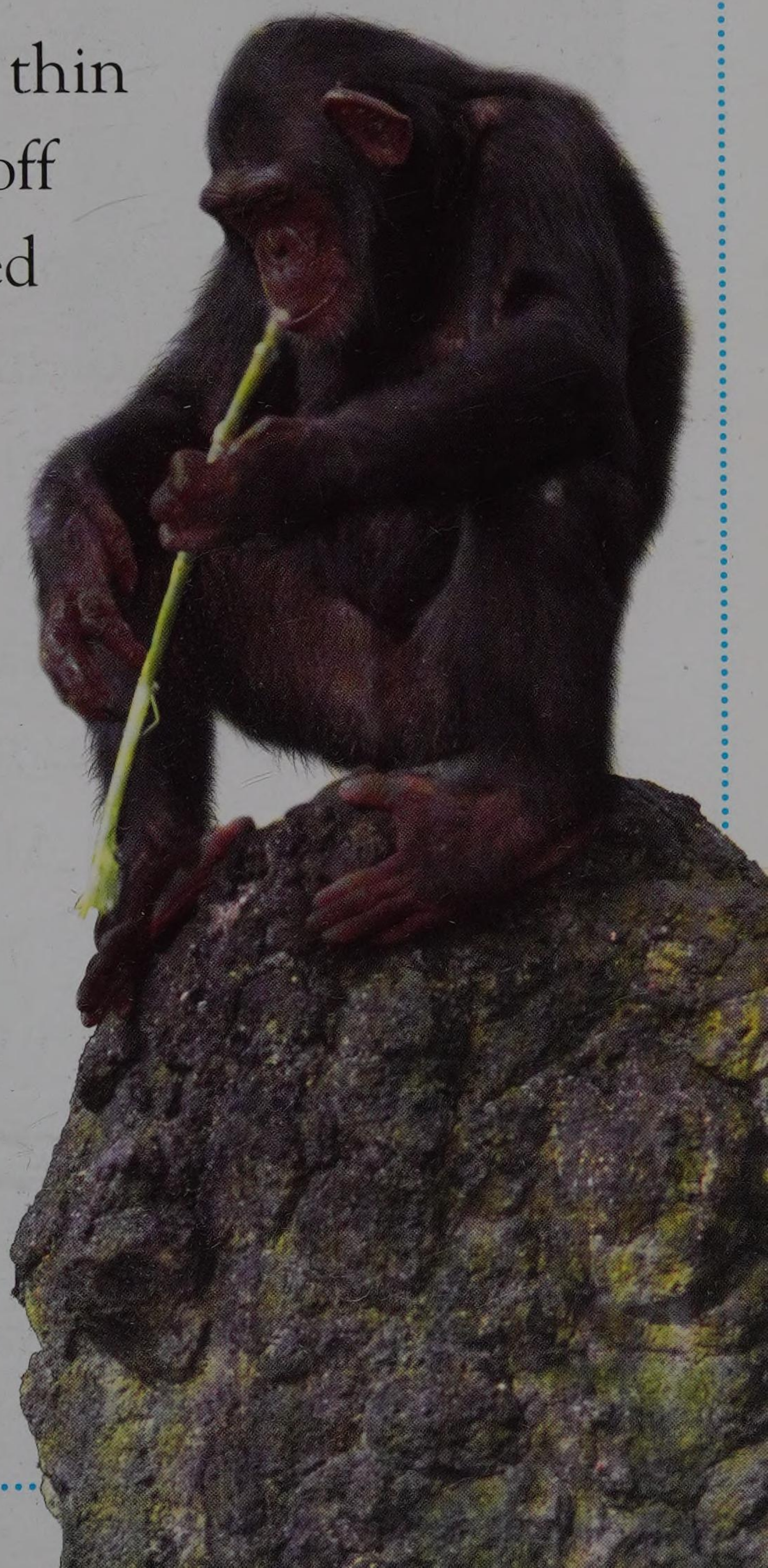
David opened up his world to Jane. One morning, she saw him sitting on a red termite mound. He was trying to get at the tasty termites inside.

Chimpanzee art

In the 1950s, researcher Desmond Morris taught some chimpanzees to paint. He hoped to find out more about chimps by studying their art.



David picked up a thin twig and stripped off its leaves. He poked it into a termite tunnel and pulled it out carefully. The twig came out covered with termites. David had made and used a tool, just like humans do. What a discovery!❖



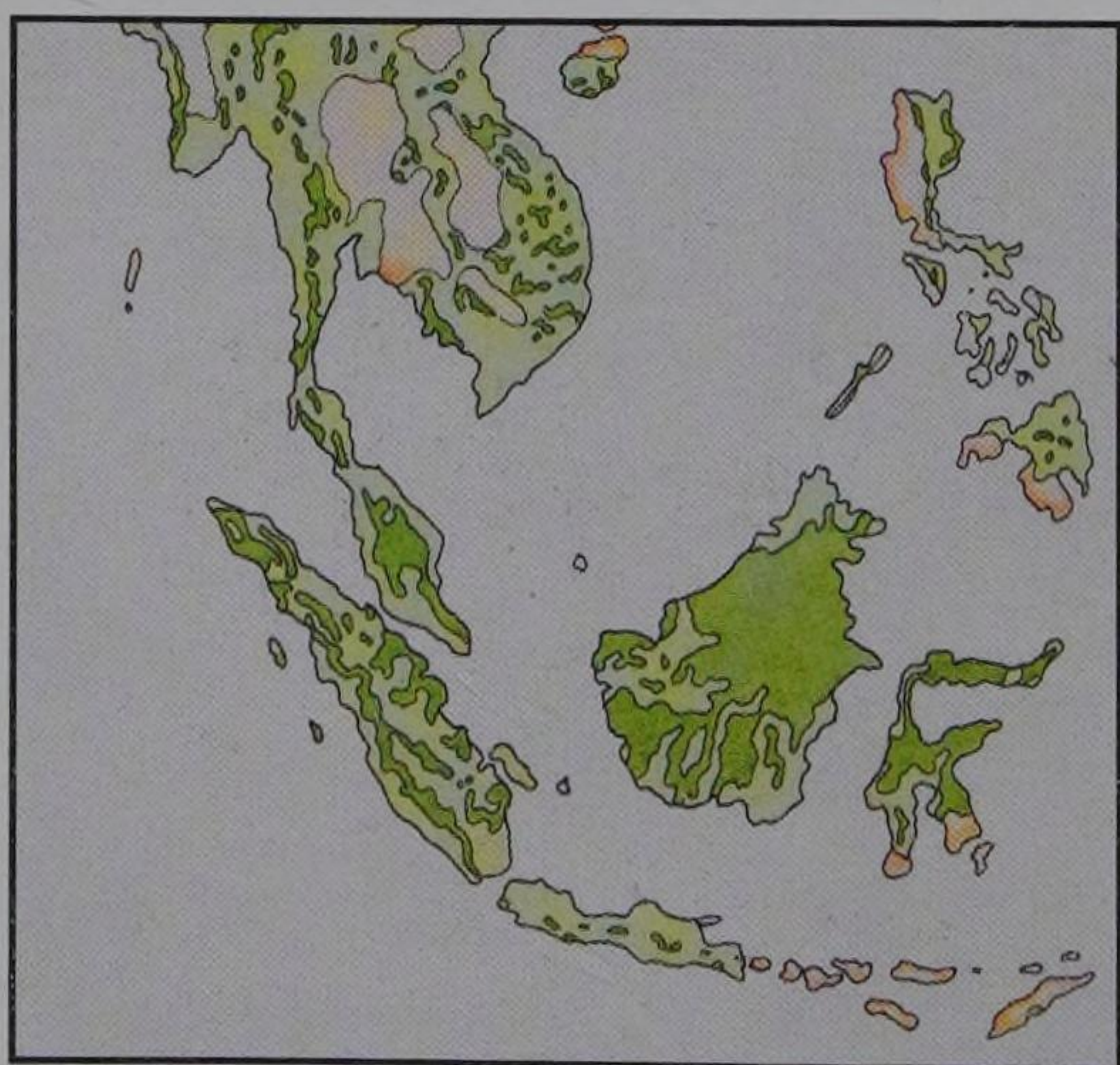
A glimpse of hope



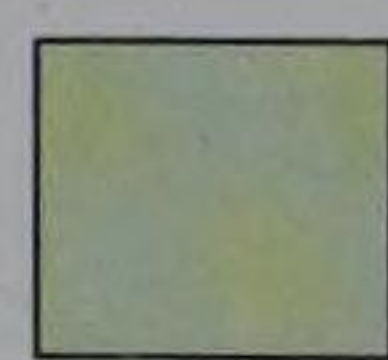
Who is Birute?

More than 30 years ago, Birute Galdikas went to Indonesia to study orang-utans. The Indonesian government helped her set up a sanctuary for rescued orang-utans in the Tanjung Puting Reserve.

A small canoe wove silently through an inky black swamp. Above, ramin trees formed a tangled canopy. In the canoe, Birute and Arji listened carefully. The forest sounded so normal. Macaque monkeys chattered as they swung through the trees.



Map of Indonesia



Areas that used to be forest



Areas of remaining forest

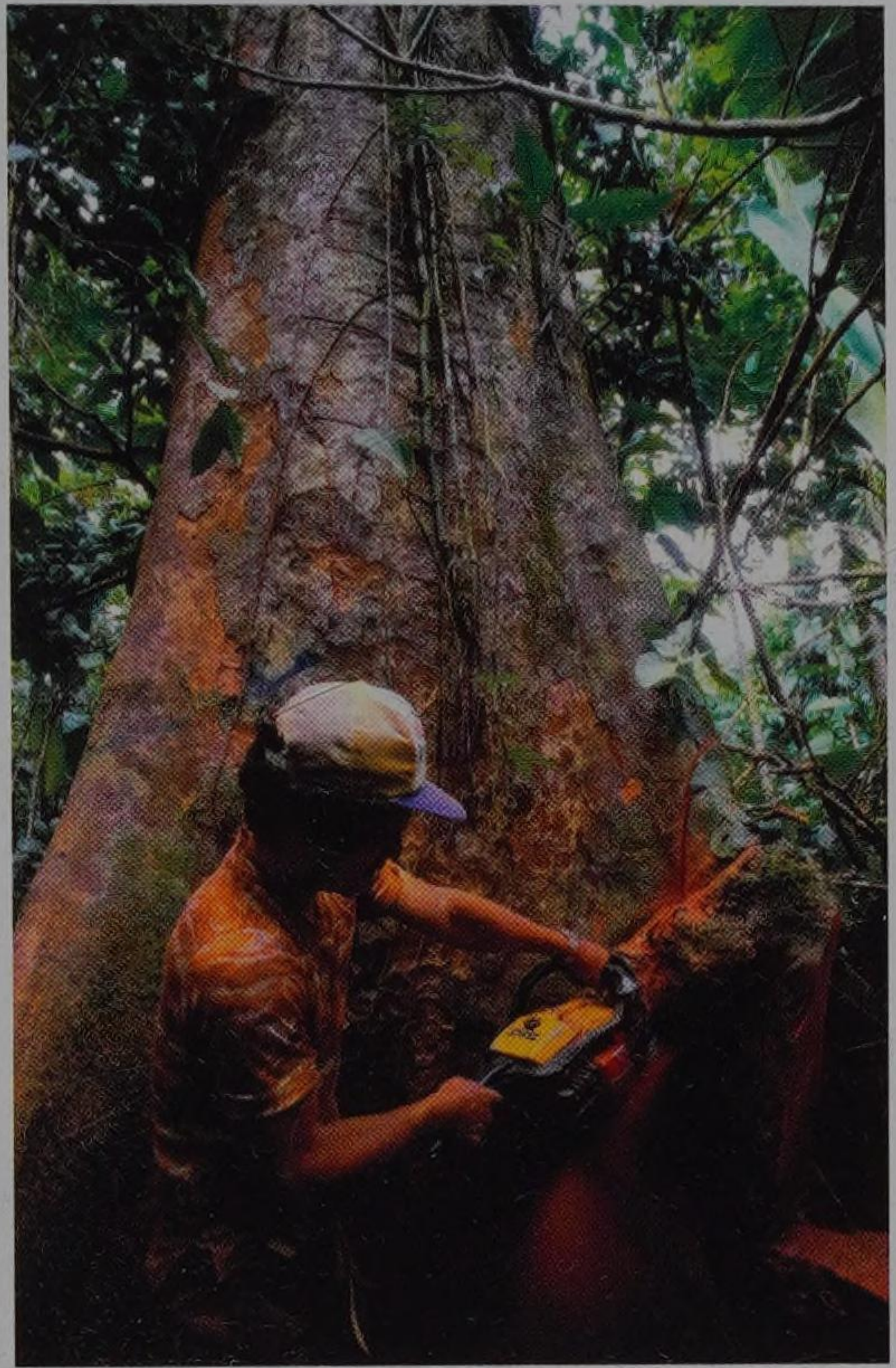
Much of the forest has been destroyed by illegal logging.

Suddenly, loud chainsaws echoed through the peaceful forest. Illegal loggers were carving their way towards the swamp.

“Is this where you saw her?” Birute asked Arji.

“Yes,” Arji replied, “but we’ll never get to her in the canoe. Let’s walk.”

They were looking for a creature high in the trees.



A shrinking habitat

80 per cent of Indonesia’s natural forest has been cut down. The wood is made into pool cues, furniture and ornaments.

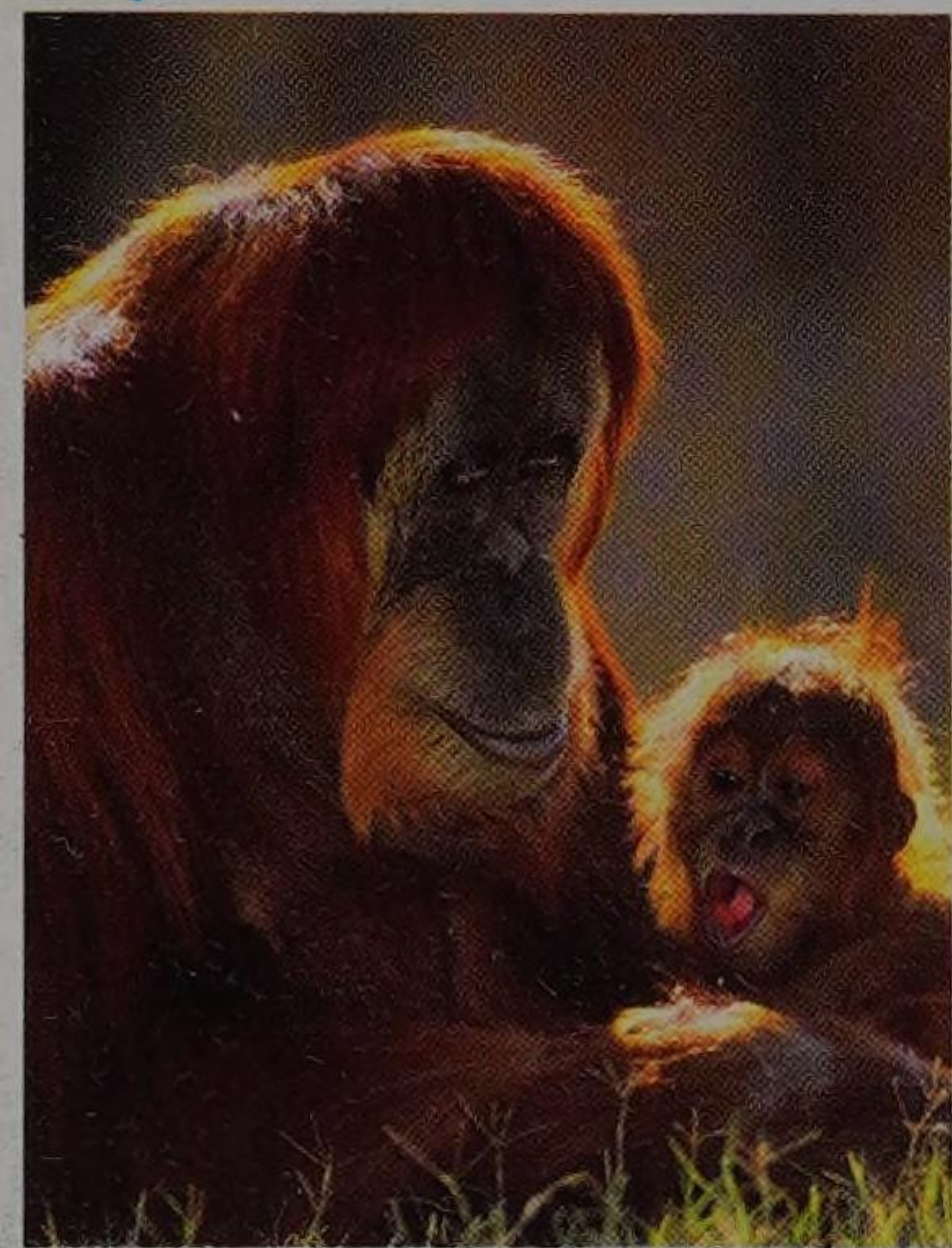


The chainsaws stopped. A logger called out, "Timber!" The trees fell, cracking and thudding on to the forest floor. Then, there was a feeble, frightened grunt. Birute and Arji looked up.

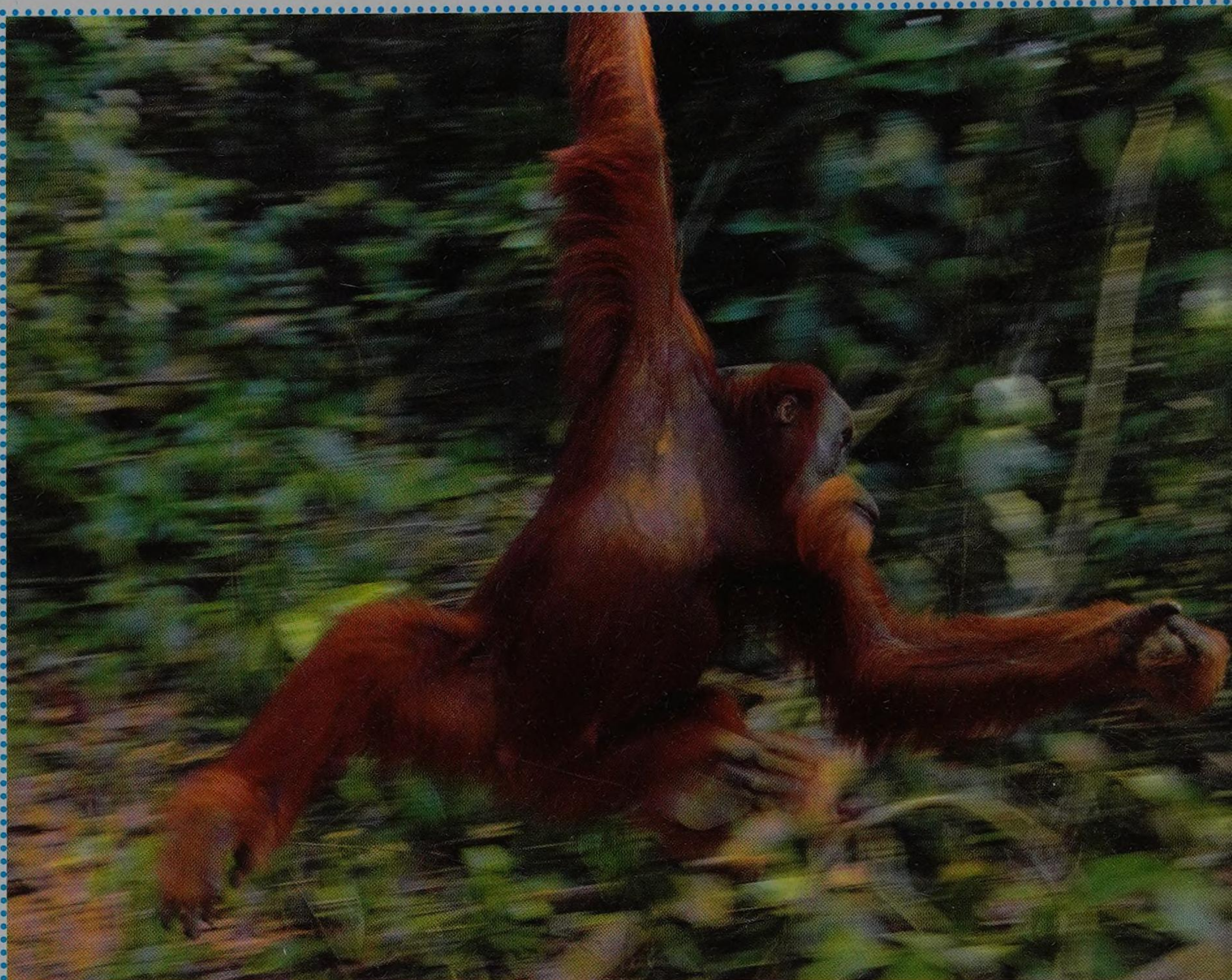
"We've found her!" whispered Arji. "What luck! There's still no sign of her mother. Was she frightened by the loggers? This ape must be very weak."

Birute stood very still and called out like a female orang-utan. The lonely baby orang-utan responded and began to climb down from her tree. A small, red, furry arm wound around Birute's

neck and a tiny hand gripped her arm. Shyly, the trembling baby settled on Birute's arched back, just as if Birute were her mother.



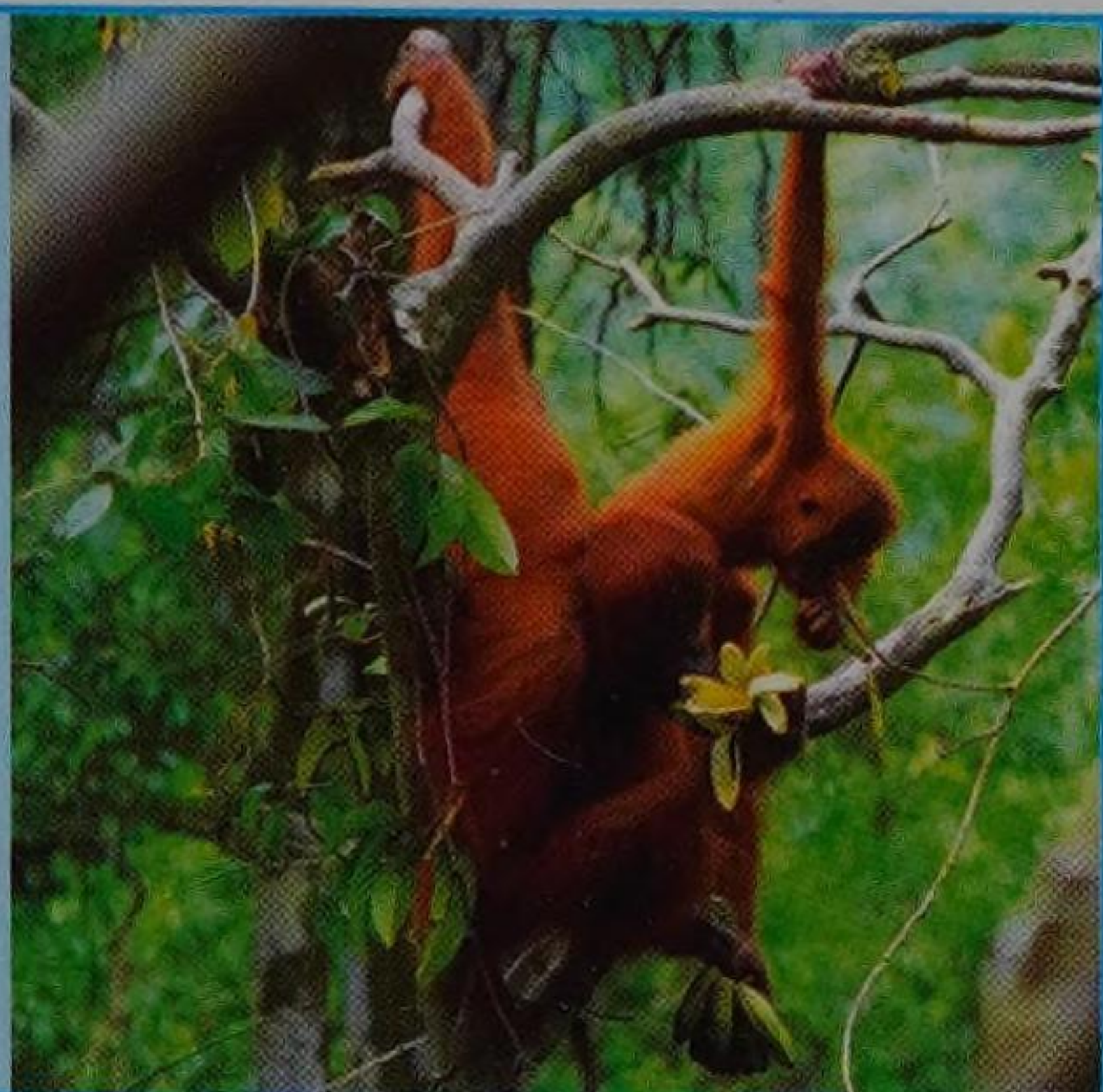




Arji and Birute returned to the canoe with the baby orang-utan. Overhead, a sudden crash made them all duck. Arji lifted his head slowly. Two huge adult male orang-utans were wrestling and slapping each other in a frenzy. Their thick jowls wobbled with rage. They were fighting over territory because their forest was shrinking fast.

Apes alone

Most orang-utans do not live in groups. They like to be alone, high up in the trees. Their diet consists mainly of fruits, leaves and insects.

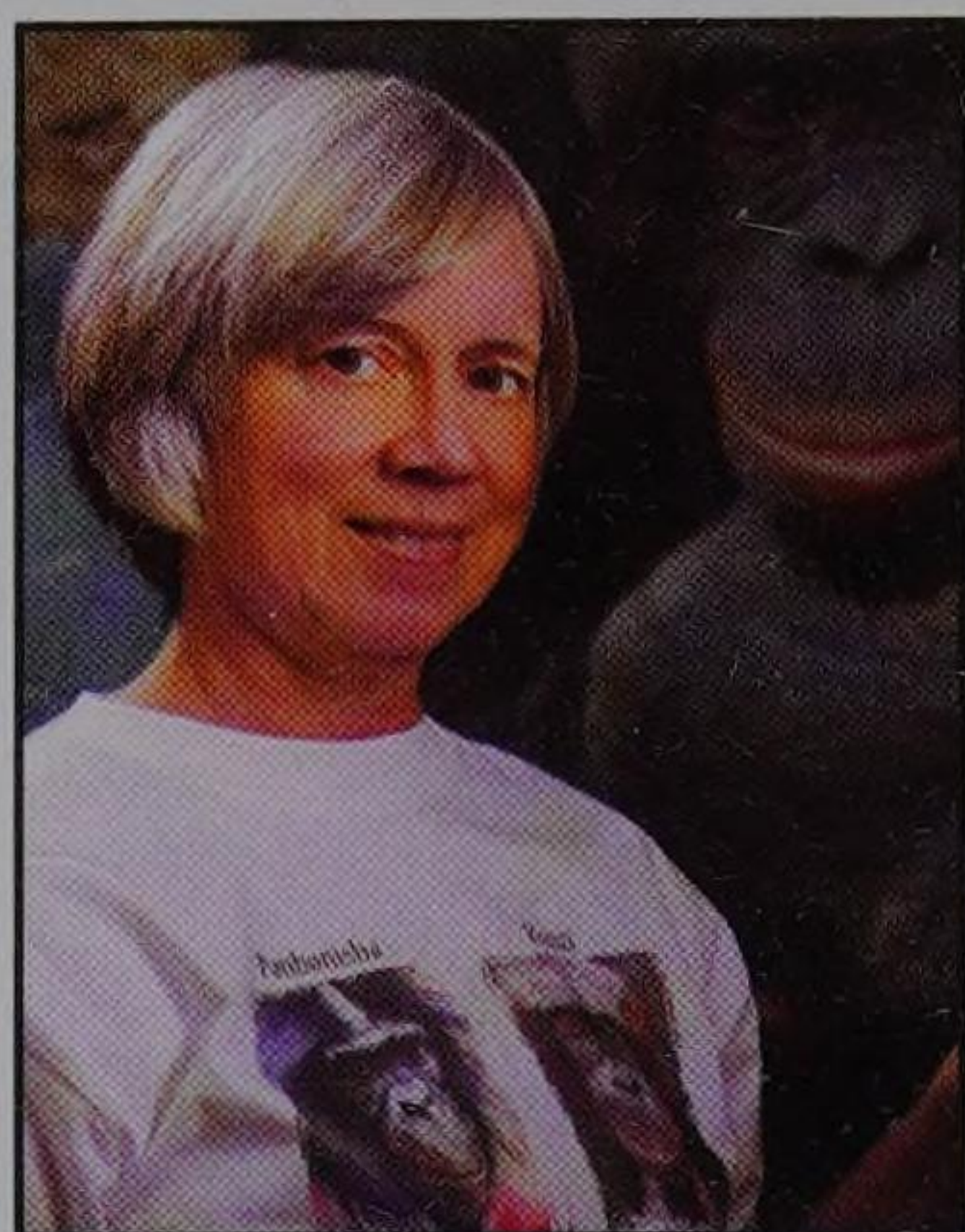


Birute, Arji and the baby orang-utan set off for the orang-utan sanctuary in the canoe. Suddenly, Birute saw a handsome orang-utan darting through the trees. She recognized him.

“It’s Harry!” she whispered. When Harry was a baby, he had been saved, too. He grew up in the sanctuary, and Birute released him back into the wild. There was hope for this frightened baby in her arms.❖



Smart apes



Who is Sue?

Sue Savage-Rumbaugh has studied bonobos for 30 years. At Great Ape Trust in Iowa, Sue works with Kanzi, a bonobo, who can link ideas by using a series of pictures. Kanzi communicates using 384 symbols.

Paul Raffaele stepped out of his car and gazed at the building. “Was this really America’s largest great ape research centre?” thought the journalist.

“Hi!” said Sue, a scientist. “It’s like an ape palace isn’t it? It’s a great place to study apes, too. Let me show you our bonobo centre.”

Paul watched the bonobos swinging and chasing each other around the playground. He laughed as they slurped water from drinking fountains, but it wasn’t anything he hadn’t seen before.

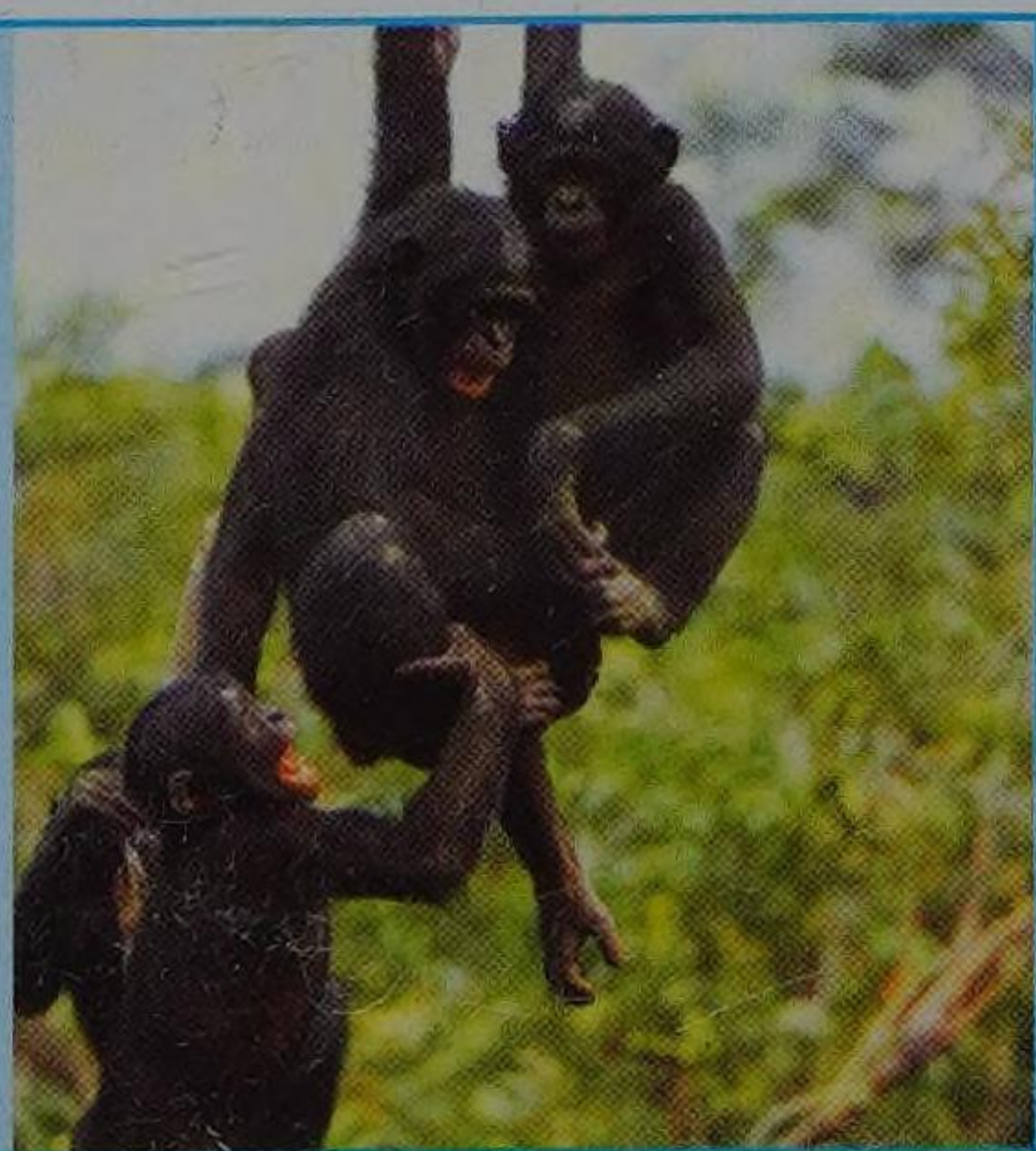
Sue then led Paul to a shiny kitchen.
“Here’s where the bonobos make their snacks,” Sue said casually.

“Make their snacks?” Paul repeated. He stared as a bonobo warmed some food in a microwave. Now, he had something to report!



Bonobos in the wild

Bonobos live in groups in the forests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa. They were only confirmed as a separate species from chimpanzees in 1929.



“So, are bonobos really intelligent,” Paul asked Sue, “or do they just copy us?”

“Come and meet Kanzi,” Sue replied. “He’s our star. He does a lot more than just copy.”

Paul gazed at the ape through a thick glass window. He and a smaller bonobo called Nyota were playing with a ball. Kanzi didn’t look that smart.



A visitor greets Kanzi inside the research centre.

High-tech apes

Bonobos learn to communicate using an electronic touch pad.

The keys are marked with symbols called lexigrams.

Each one stands for a word.

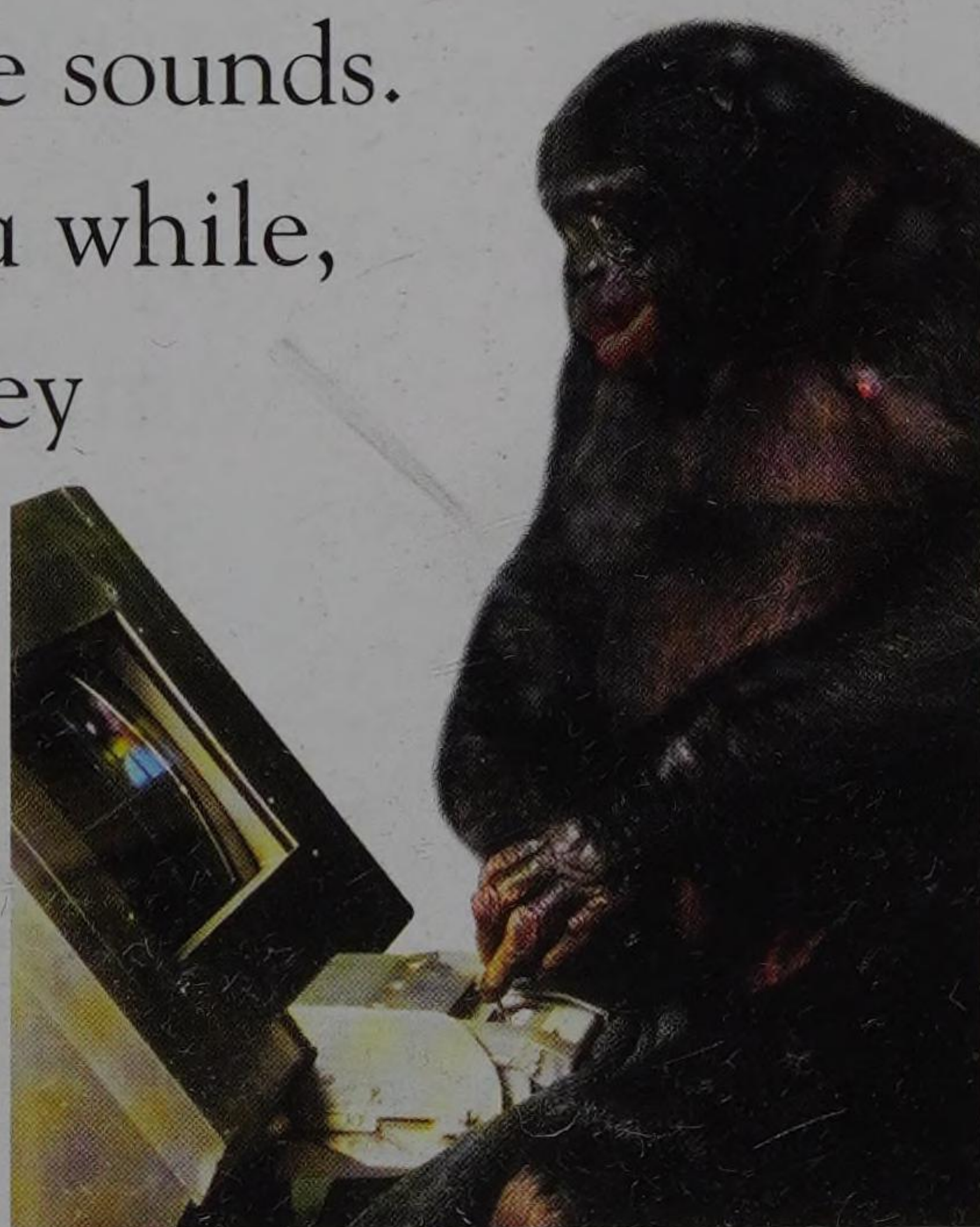


“Let’s go in and meet them,” said Sue.

As they entered the room, Kanzi beat his legs and grunted loudly at Paul. Paul grunted back. This was scary, but fun!

“Kanzi!” said Sue. “Tell Nyota to choose a film.”

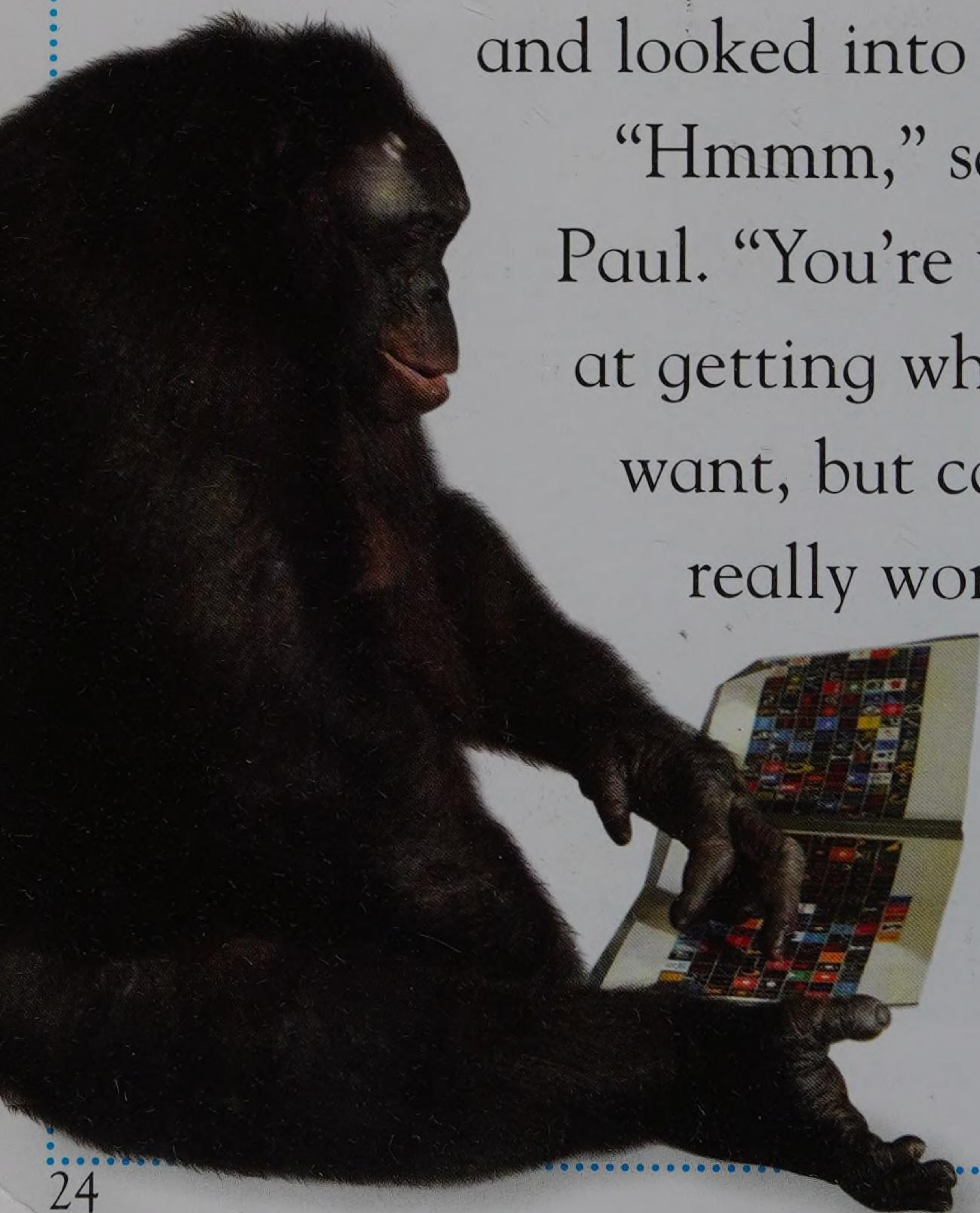
Kanzi made some sounds. Nyota thought for a while, then he pressed a key on an electronic touch pad. A film started to play on a screen. Paul was truly amazed.



Paul listened as Sue talked about her research, which had explored the different ways that apes and humans learn. Kanzi was the first ape to show real understanding of spoken speech, learning the language in the same way as a human child.

Paul now had all he needed to write his report. He said goodbye to Kanzi and looked into his eyes.

“Hmmm,” said Paul. “You’re very good at getting what you want, but can you really work things out for yourself?”





Kanzi and Sue communicate using lexigrams.

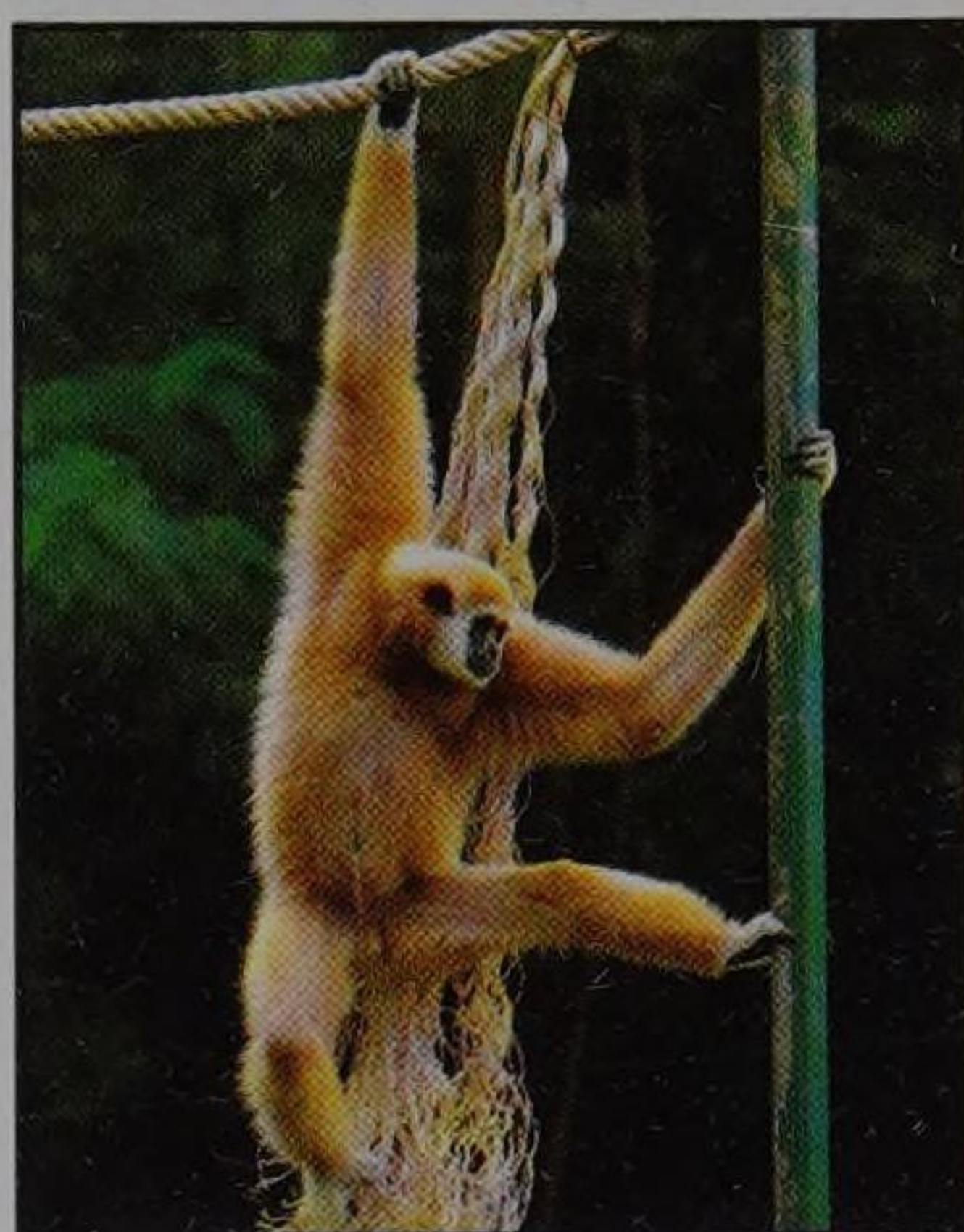
Paul left the ape complex and looked up at the cloudless sky. “I wonder if Kanzi could ever talk about the weather,” he thought.❖

War or peace?

Many scientists believe that bonobos are gentler than chimpanzees. But they have noticed that bonobos get angry sometimes when provoked.



Apes in a safe place



Who is the rescue team?

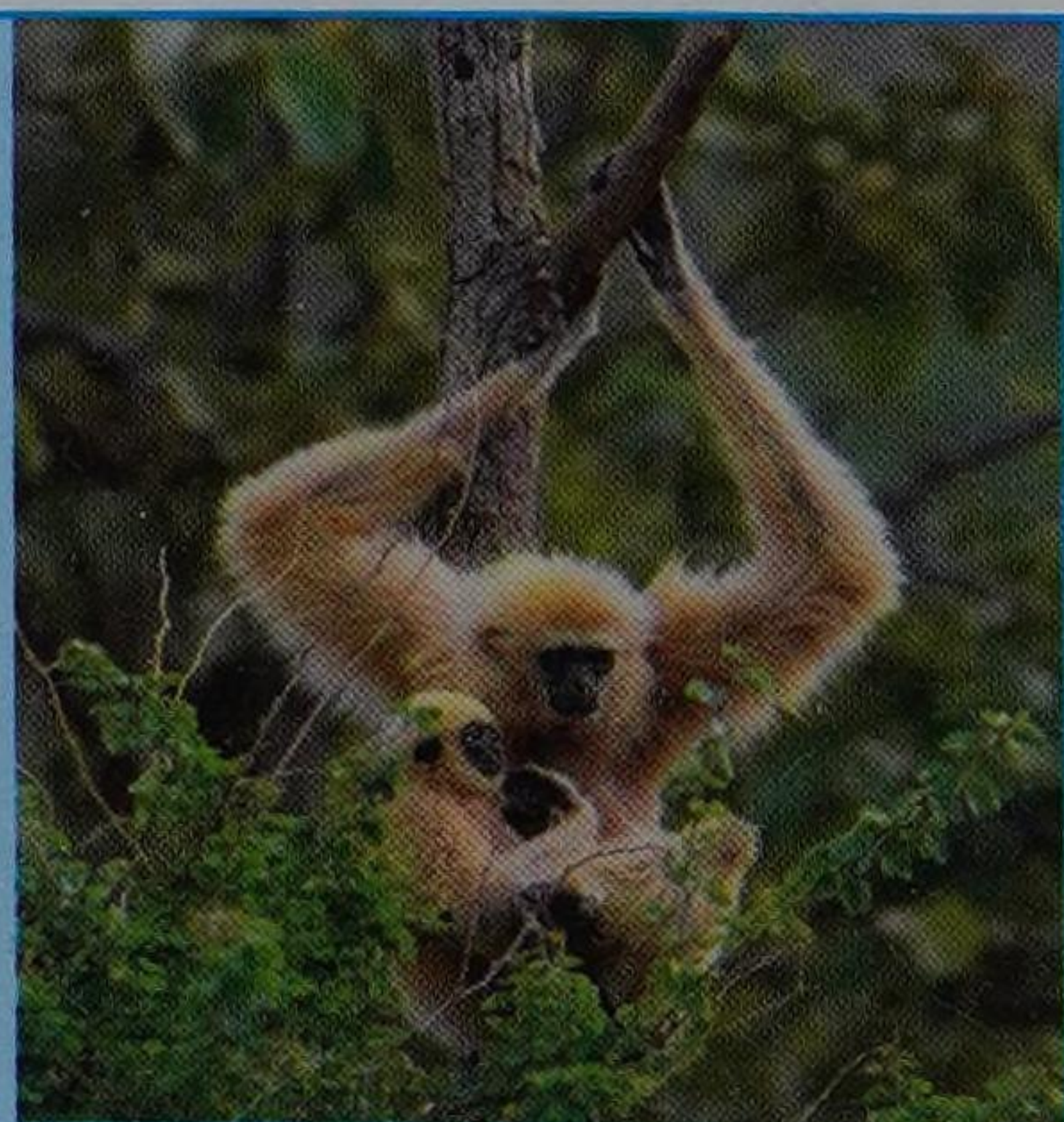
The Pingtung Rescue Centre in Taiwan, supported by Monkey World in England, searches for apes, such as gibbons, being illegally sold in Asian markets. They work with the police to rescue the apes.

Black clouds sulked over the streets of Bangkok, Thailand. The air was still and sticky, but Kim, Yu and the rest of the team from the rescue centre didn't notice. They walked briskly through the crowded market, searching.

The rain came. Huge drops crashed on to the tin roofs of the market stalls.

Hunted

Hunters snatch small apes from their natural habitats. The apes' mothers try to protect their young, but the hunters kill any adult apes that get in their way.



“I can hear something!” yelled Kim above the noise of the pelting rain. “I think it’s a gibbon calling. It’s coming from over there, behind that maze of buildings.”



*A bustling market
in Bangkok*

The team turned into a narrow alley and followed the wailing cry.

“At the end!” shouted Yu above the crashing rain. “I can see the bottom of a cage under some plastic.”

The team members slowed down and pretended to laugh and joke among themselves. Yu approached the stallholder with a smile.

“Hi!” he said. “My friends and I are looking to buy a pet gibbon. Do you have any?”

*Lar
gibbons*



Illegal markets

Many apes are transported a long way to illegal markets where they are sold as pets or for entertainment. Gibbons from Vietnam are found in Thailand.



“Yes, under this cover!” the stallholder snapped, looking around nervously. “Take a quick look. The police are everywhere today.”

The team lifted a ripped plastic cover and peered underneath. They were shocked to see cages full of frightened, hungry animals. Two small, shivering lar gibbons crouched in the corner of one cage. The team was angry but no one wanted to startle the stallholder.

Yu forced a smile. “Not quite what we wanted,” he told the man. “Maybe we’ll come again another time.”

The team left quietly. They were very upset, but they would make a proper report and then a rescue team would come to save the gibbons.

The team climbed into a truck and jerked through the crowded streets. They headed northwest out of the city to the emerald hills of Thailand.

Kim drove up a rocky trail and stopped at a large Buddhist monastery.



*A Buddhist
monastery in
Thailand*

The team could hear gentle bells jingling inside the temple, but there was another sound as well – the singing call of happy gibbons. These gibbons had been rescued from

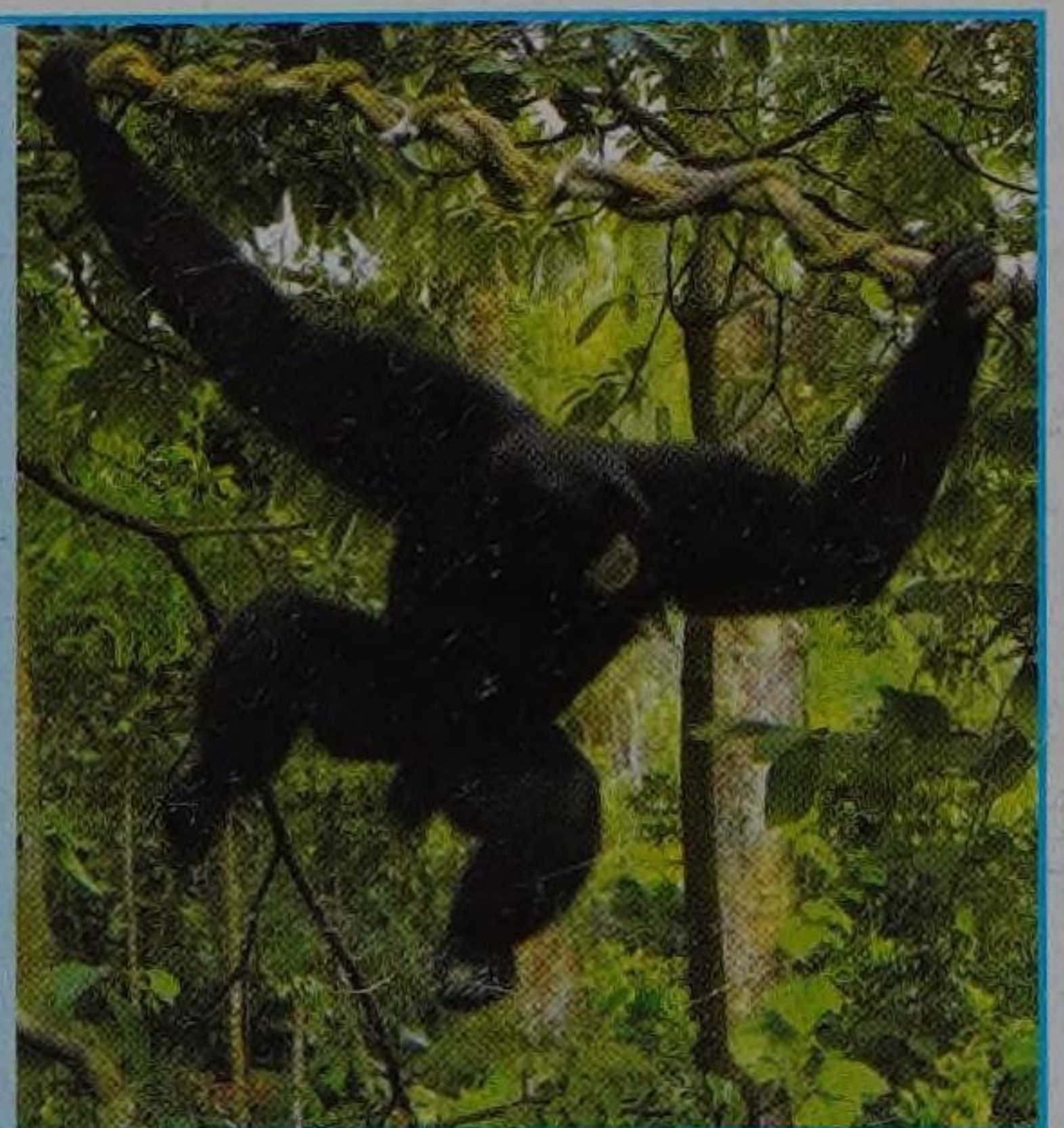


illegal traders. Here at the monastery, the monks looked after them well.

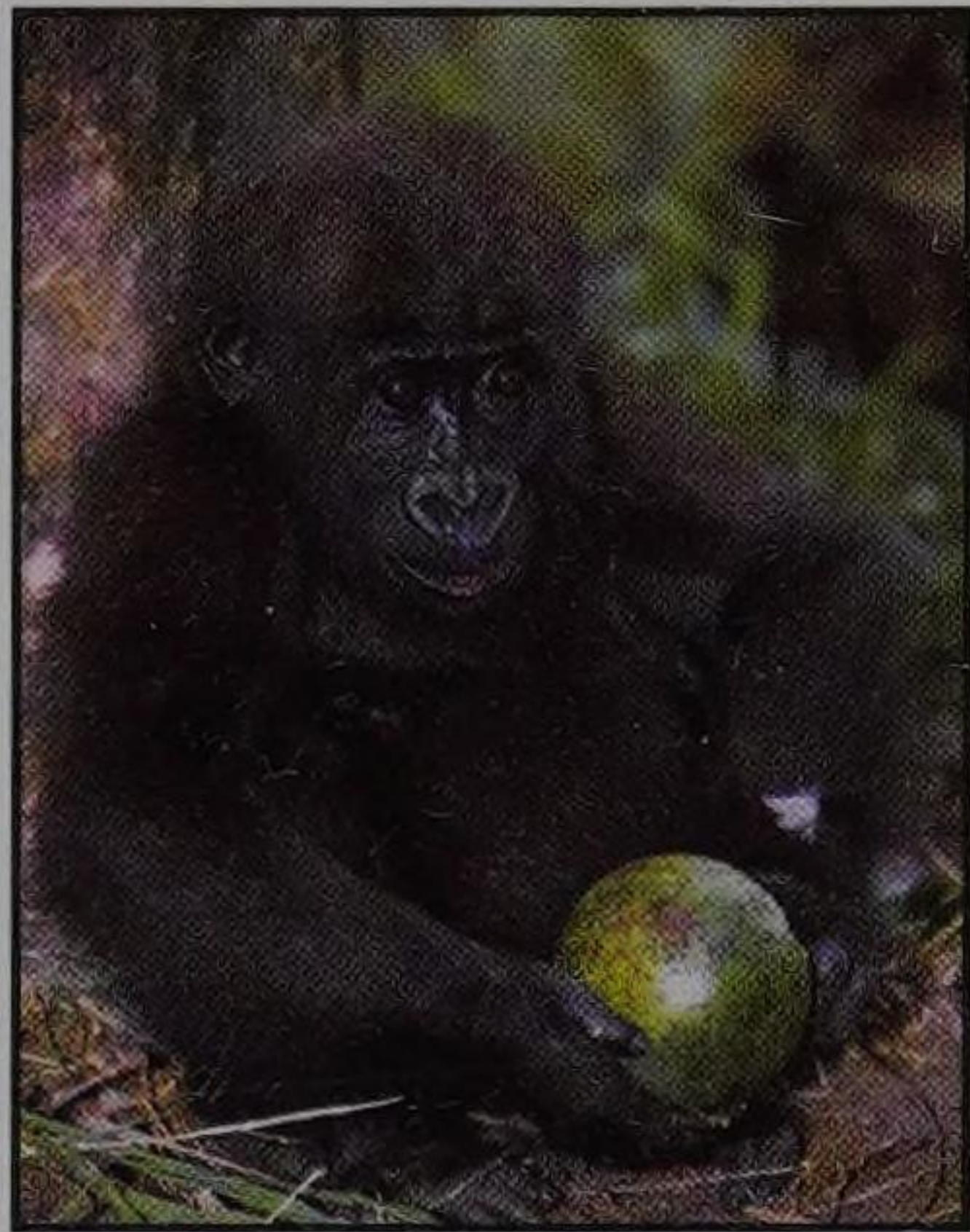
“At last, we have something good to report!” Kim said, smiling.❖

Swinging and singing

Gibbons have ball-and-socket joints in their wrists that let their hands swivel as they swing. They use song-like sounds to call to each other in the forest.



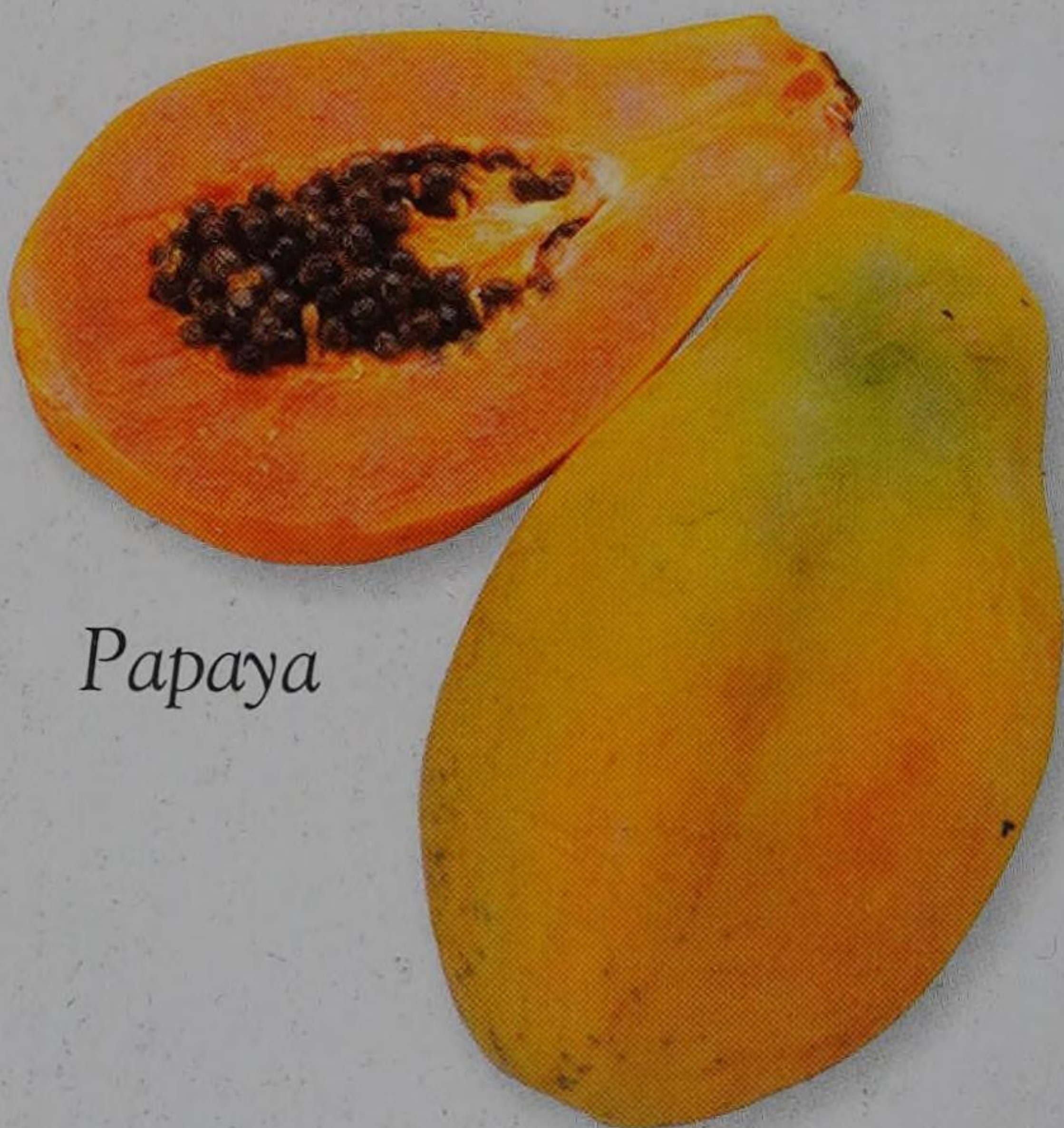
Letting go



Who is Djalta?

Djalta is a western lowland gorilla. He was born at Howletts, a John Aspinall Foundation wildlife centre in England. From this centre, gorillas are released into national parks in Gabon and Congo, in central Africa.

Djalta jerked his head upwards. A keeper was pushing food through the wire roof of his cage. Great, supper time! The young gorilla jumped on to a pile of soft straw. His agile fingers grabbed a piece of juicy papaya that was buried in the hay. Mmmm, delicious!



Papaya



Guava

He swung around and pounced on some nuts. Sweet and crunchy! He found some guava. Before he could eat it, his big friend, Kwibi, rolled him onto his back and grabbed it!

Djalta ate well but he wasn't very happy that night. He felt uneasy, as if something was going to change. His instincts were right.





The next morning, there was a whirl of confusion. After breakfast, Djalta was led into

a large truck. He began to panic, then he felt a soft slap on the head. It was his friend, Kwibi! There were also five other gorillas in the truck, which made Djalta feel a little better.





The truck started up. For three days, the young gorillas travelled, rolling along highways, gliding over water and roaring through the air.

Finally, they were carried along bumpy roads for many miles. Then, the noise and vibration stopped. The truck door opened and a rush of warm, moist air swarmed around the gorillas.

They could hear lots of people talking. A woman's voice cried, "At last! I thought they'd never come to live with us!"

The woman held out her hands to welcome the young gorillas. "We'll work hard to help you all adapt to your new home," she said.

Djalta looked out from the truck, his eyes large and timid. He could hear birds calling and the shrill buzz of cicadas. There was forest all around and trees stretched up to the sky.

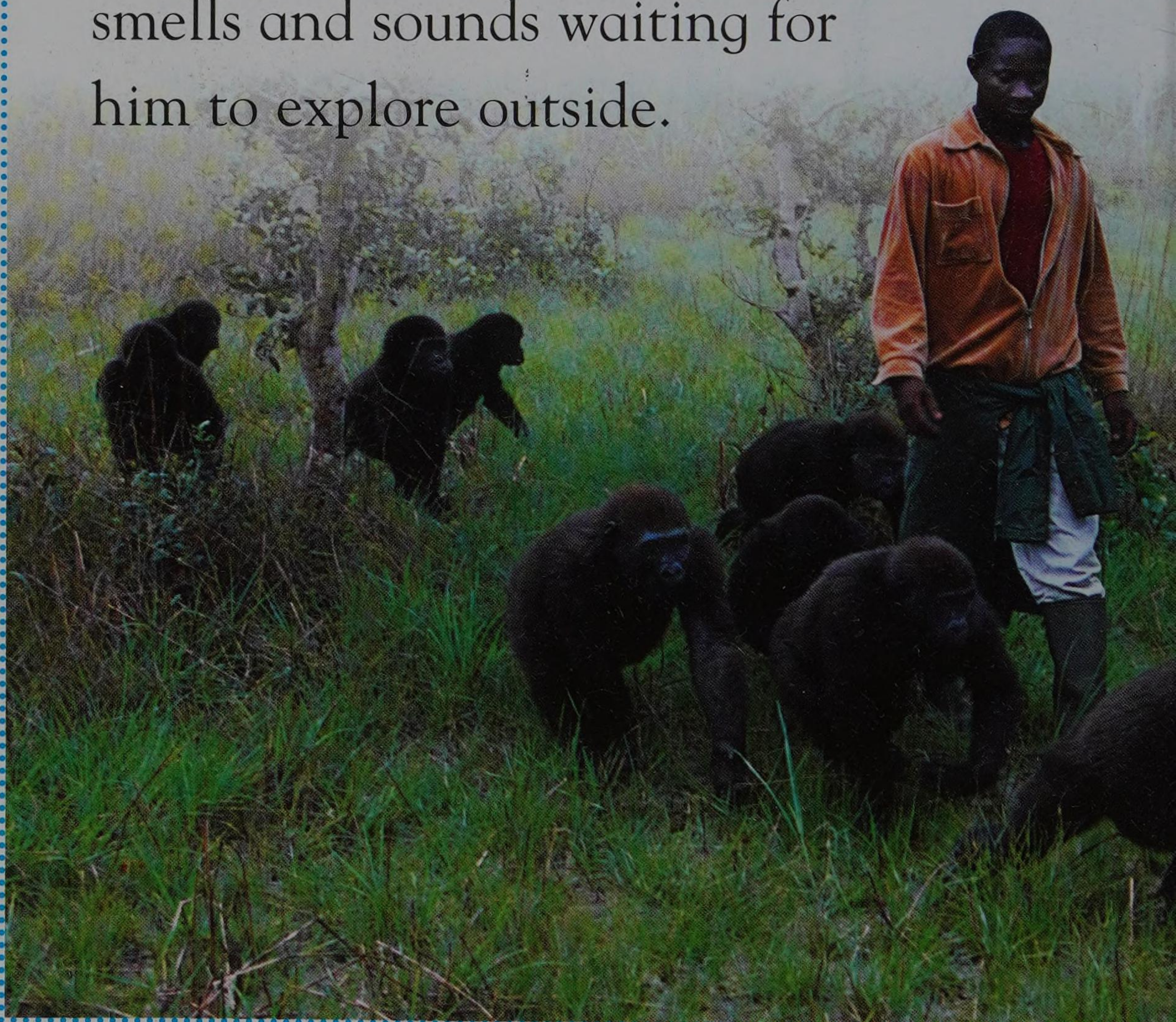
Djalta clutched the new keeper's fingers and walked into a wide clearing. He could see an enclosure, but it seemed very strange. It was made of solid logs and looked dark and spooky. He shrank away from it.



The keeper picked him up and showed him some cosy straw bedding inside a hut nearby.

“This is where you will sleep,” she said softly, “until you learn how to make your own nest in the forest.”

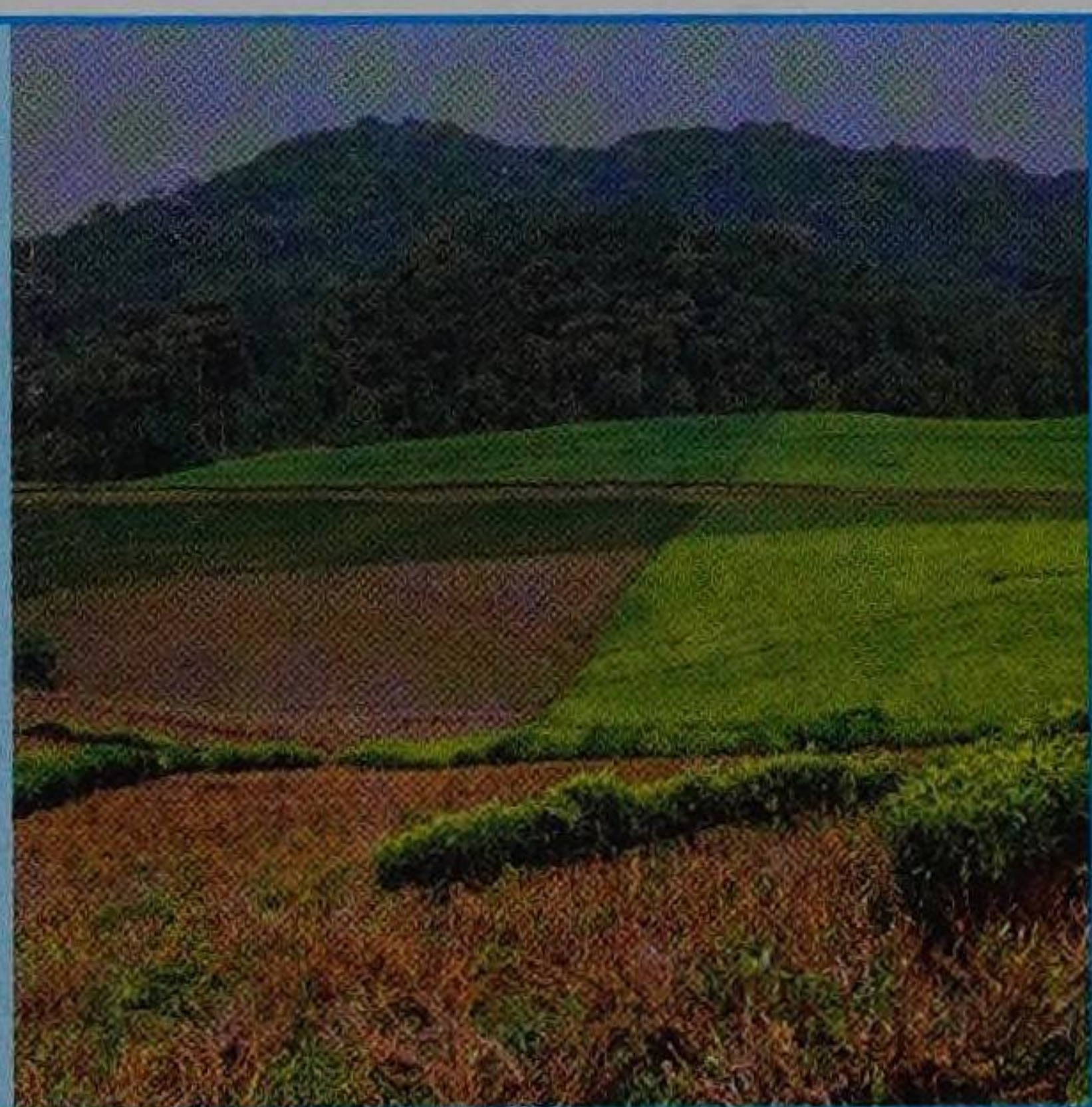
Djalta calmed down a little. There were many exciting new smells and sounds waiting for him to explore outside.



On that first day, the new keeper watched the young gorillas carefully. “It will take a long time for this group to settle,” she told the other keepers. “These gorillas aren’t brothers and sisters and they have no real mother. However, we must try to help them become a family in the wild.”

Threats to apes

Ape habitats are shrinking fast. Some forests are being destroyed to make way for farmland. Some apes live in war-torn areas and become victims of the violence.



Djalta watched an older gorilla, Oundi, plucking some leaves. Djalta followed her for a while and began to feel braver. He started to rummage around in the undergrowth, searching for food. For the first time, he tasted the fruits of the forest.

The young gorillas started to play together. One of them began to comb Djalta's fur with his fingers.

*Gorillas eat more than
130 kinds of food
in the wild.*





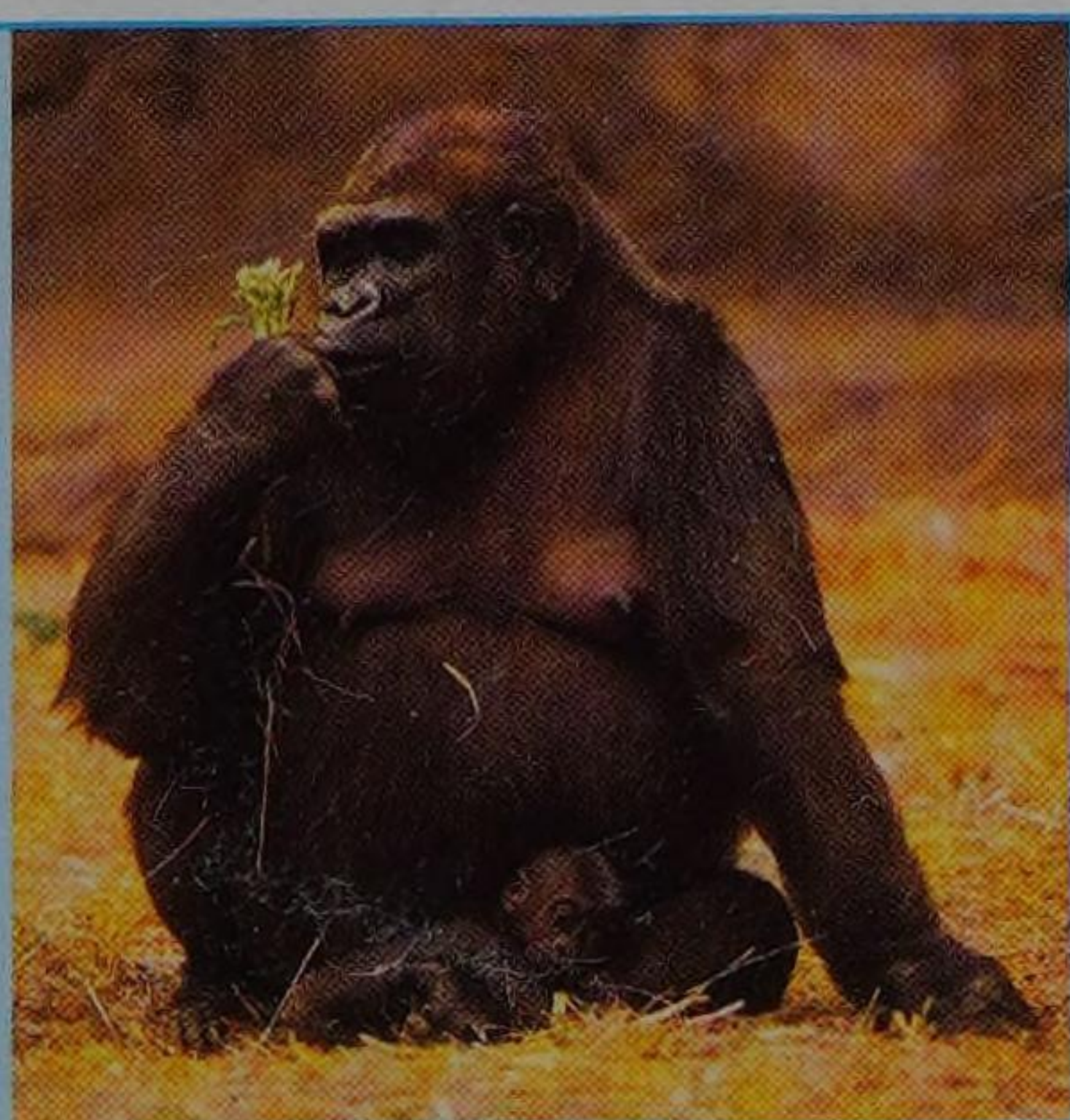
Gorillas are gentle, sociable animals who live in groups. They communicate using gestures, vocal sounds and facial expressions.

They still had a long way to go, of course, but slowly, these young apes would learn to live in their natural home in Africa.❖

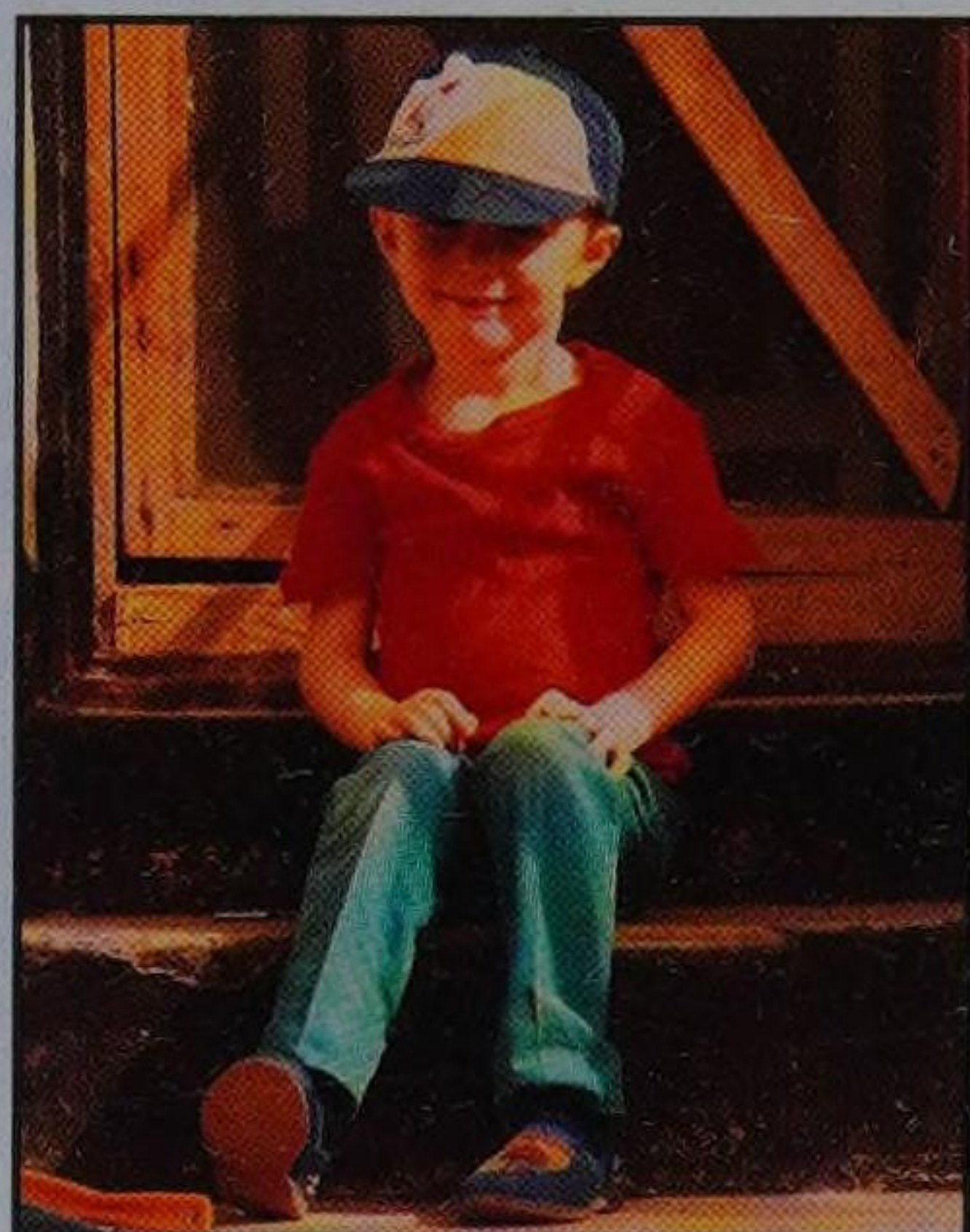
Learning to be an ape

The keepers in the parks prepare the apes for life in the wild.

They drop a wide range of food on to the straw in their huts to teach them how to forage.



Ape surprise



Who is Joe?

As a young boy, Joe travelled to many places with his parents. This trip was made 25 years ago when the family was living in northern Nigeria. There was no ape tourism then and the family felt very lucky to see an ape.

The holiday in eastern Nigeria was almost over for Tony, Catherine and their young son, Joe. Their jeep was slowly winding its way up a steep road.

The family stopped at a small lay-by cut into the rock near a clear stream.

Joe dropped a pebble into the silvery water and watched the ripples. Suddenly, he saw a strange reflection.

“Mum! Dad! Look over there!” he gasped.

Tony and Catherine turned around.

Three small putty-nosed monkeys with long tails were waltzing from branch to branch, moving swiftly through the trees.

“I saw dancing monkeys!” cried Joe with great excitement, as he climbed back into the jeep.



*Putty-nosed
monkey*

The family was thrilled. They had seen magnificent scenery on their trip, but they had never expected to see monkeys.

The jeep chugged on down the mountainside. At the bottom, dense, steaming tropical forest stretched out around them. The air was hot and humid now. The family bounced along the bumpy, red-earth road. Then an excited voice cut sharply through the noise of the jeep.

“Oh, wow!” cried Joe. “Over there, in the trees, is a very, *very* big monkey!”

The jeep skidded to a stop and the family gazed at the wall of trees by the road.

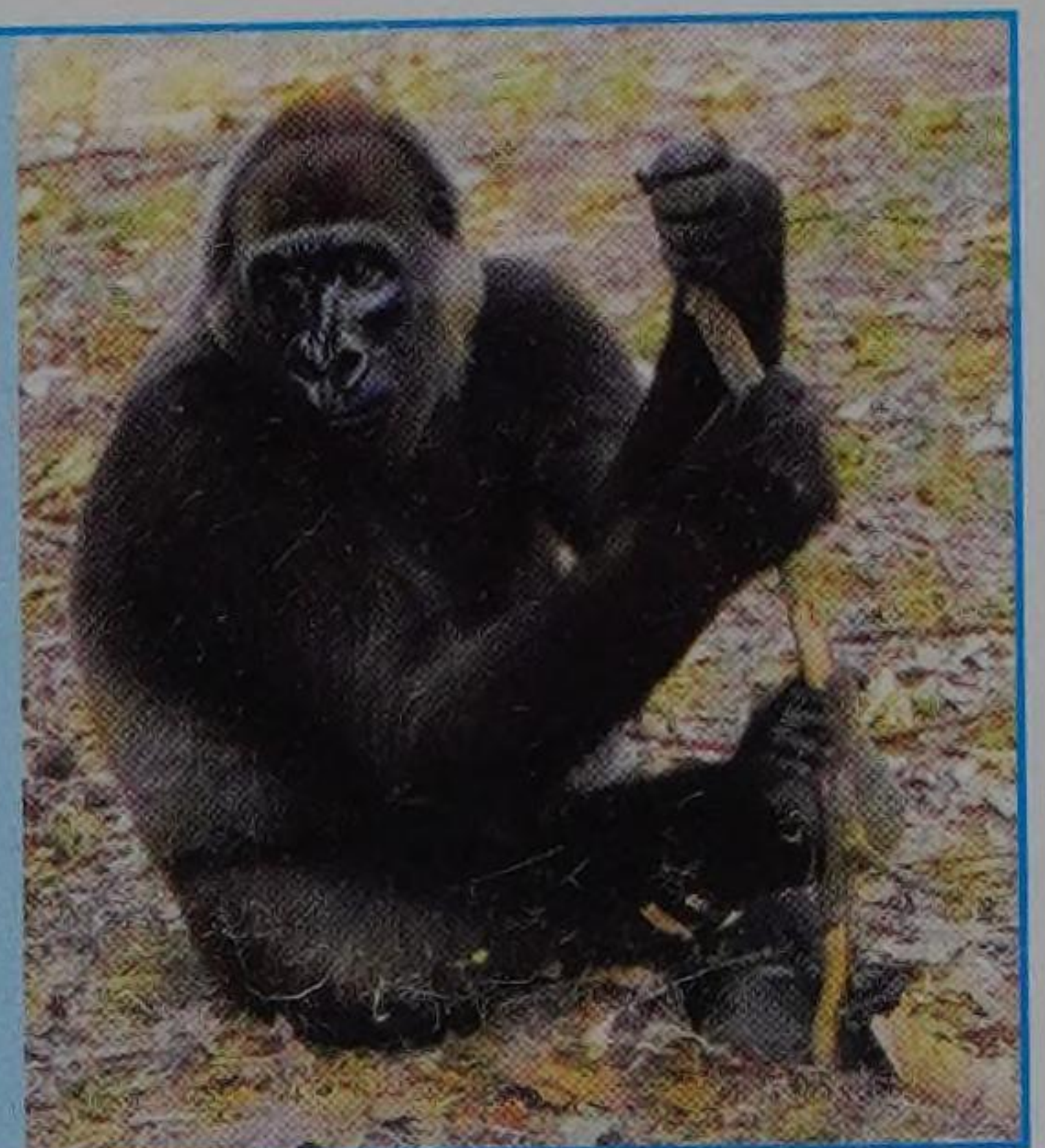
“That’s not a monkey,” cried Catherine. “It’s a gorilla!”



The Cross River gorilla is the rarest type of gorilla and is listed as “critically endangered”. The total population may be fewer than 300 gorillas. They are only found around the border between Cameroon and Nigeria in Africa. Taking photos of them in the wild is extremely difficult, since they are rare and very wary of humans.

Apes or monkeys?

Apes and monkeys may look alike but there are important differences. For example, only monkeys have tails, and apes have bigger brains, which helps them make tools.

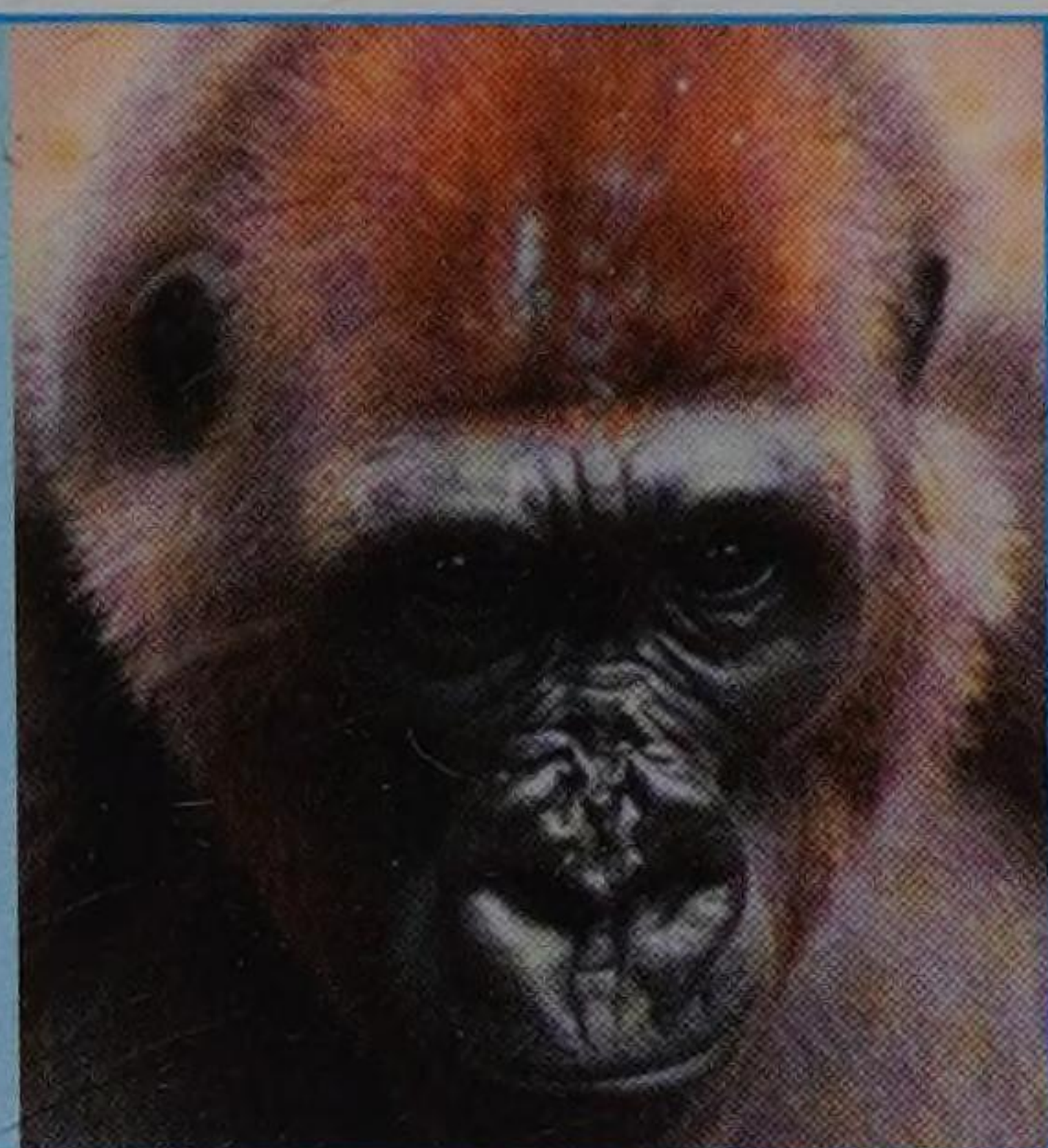


She was right. An enormous Cross River gorilla was leaning against a tree. He stared at the family for a moment, watching them intently.



Helping apes

Today, ape tourism and visits to sanctuaries help raise awareness of apes and their environments. The money raised goes towards saving the apes and their habitats.

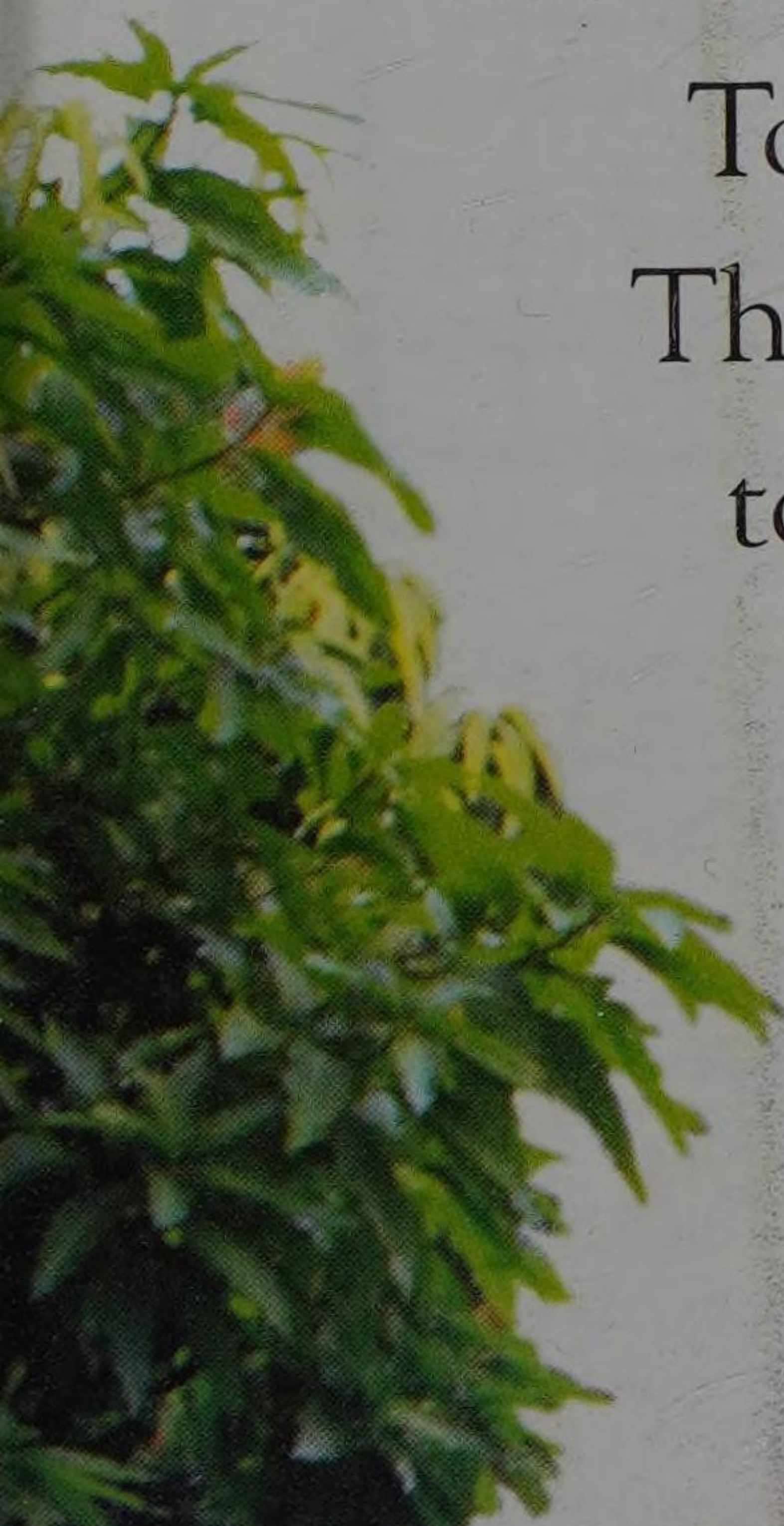


Then he gripped a tree trunk with his strong arms and propelled himself away into the forest.

No one spoke for a while.

“He was special, wasn’t he?” Joe whispered. “And now he’s gone, just like magic.”

Tony started the jeep’s engine. They moved off in silence, totally starstruck. The best presents are often the ones not asked for. This amazing gorilla was the greatest surprise ever.❖



Glossary

Bonobo

A small great ape with long arms and black hair that lives in the rainforests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Endangered

Refers to a species in danger of becoming extinct throughout its habitat. Critically endangered refers to a species at highest risk.

Forage

To search and browse for food.

Gibbon

A small ape with a slender body and long arms that lives in the forests of southeast Asia.

Habitat

The natural environment where an animal lives.

Illegal

Refers to an action that is not allowed by law.

Lexigrams

Symbols that represent words. Lexigrams are used in ape-language research projects to communicate with bonobos and chimpanzees.

Sanctuary

A place where animals are protected from being attacked.

Savannah

An area of grassland with a few trees in tropical and subtropical areas.

Siamang

A very agile, large black gibbon that lives in the jungles of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula.

Subtropical area

A region with a slightly cooler climate than a tropical area.

Termites

Pale-coloured social insects that feed on dead plant material.

Territory

An area defended by one or more animals as a home base.

Tropical area

A region located near the equator with a hot and humid climate.

Ape conservation websites:

In 2001, the United Nations Environment Programme set up the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) to work with governments and local communities to save the great apes and their habitats from extinction: www.unep.org/grasp/index.asp

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) saves wildlife and wild lands. Since 1996, WCS has been involved in the conservation of the critically endangered Cross River gorilla: www.wcs.org

The Ape Alliance brings together more than 40 ape-conservation organizations, and their website leads to many other sites about apes: www.4apes.com

Index

- Africa 4, 6, 41
 - Cameroon 45
 - Congo 32
 - Democratic Republic of Congo 21
 - East Africa 6, 9
 - Gabon 32
 - Nigeria 45
 - Tanzania 6
- ape 4, 16, 20, 24, 25, 26, 29, 39, 41, 45
 - communication 41
 - diet 6, 19
 - forage 41
 - great apes 5
 - hunt 7
 - lesser apes 5
 - mothers 6, 7, 16, 26, 39
 - nests 9, 38
 - survival 4
 - tool 4, 13, 45
- Asia 4
 - Indonesia 14, 15
 - Taiwan 26
 - Thailand 26, 29, 30
 - Vietnam 29
- bonobo 5, 20–25
 - Kanzi 20, 22–25
 - Nyota 22–23
 - snack 21
- camp 11, 12
- chimpanzee 5, 6–13, 21, 25
 - art 13
 - David Greybeard 11–13
- critically endangered 45
- electronic touch pad 23
- farmers 4
 - farmland 39
- food 7, 21, 32, 40, 41
 - fruits 6, 7, 19, 40, 41
 - bananas 11, 12
 - guava 33
 - papaya 32
- insects 19
 - termite 12, 13
- leaves 6, 19, 40
- nuts 11, 33
- forests 4, 6, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 31, 36, 38, 39, 40, 44, 47
 - subtropical 4
 - tropical 4, 44
- Galdikas, Birute 14–19
- gibbon 5, 26–31
 - lar gibbon 5, 28, 29
 - siamang 5
- Goodall, Jane 6–12
 - diary 11
- gorilla 5, 32, 34–39, 44–47
 - western lowland 32
 - Cross River 45, 46
- habitats 15, 39
- hunters 4, 26
- keeper 32, 36, 38–39, 41
- lexigrams 23, 25
- loggers 4, 15, 16
 - illegal 14, 15
 - logging 14
- monastery 30, 31
- monkeys 7, 44, 45
 - Macaque monkeys 14
 - putty-nosed monkeys 43
- Morris, Desmond 13
- national parks 32
- orangutan 5, 14, 16–19
- park ranger 6
- rescue 14, 26, 30, 31
 - Monkey World, England 26
 - Pingtung Rescue Center, Taiwan 26
- research center 20, 22
 - Great Ape Trust, Iowa 20
- researcher 13
- sanctuary 14, 19, 47
 - Tanjung Puting Reserve 14
- Savage-Rumbaugh, Sue 20–25
- savannahs 6
- scientist 4, 20, 25
- territory 18
- tourism 42, 47
- tourist 4
- traders 4, 31
 - illegal 4, 26, 31
 - markets 26, 29
 - stall operators 28–29
- wildlife center 32
 - Howletts, England 32



Where do apes live? How do they communicate? Find out through some face-to-face encounters.

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